



FOREIGN NURSES EASE STAFF CRISIS

Report by Richard Guttridge

DOZENS of shifts were understaffed at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital during the past 12 months.

A report to be discussed this week reveals the hospital was unable to meet recommended staffing levels on a number of shifts.

Nurses from the Philippines and India will be recruited to help boost staffing levels on wards as hospital bosses take the recruitment drive abroad from April to fill vacancies.

Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall, insisted the staff shortages did 'not necessarily' have a negative impact on patients.

Officials also said the shortages were generally spread evenly across the wards, according to a report by chief nurse Dawn Wardell.

The hospital has seen an improvement in the figures since August when 63 shifts were understaffed. During January, 20 shifts did not have the required numbers of staff to manage patients.

One 'red' shift was reported in January, which means there was a 'serious' staffing shortfall, when staff had to be drafted to a trauma ward from elsewhere.

Maternity

According to the hospital's targets, there should be one nurse to every 10 patients on general wards during the day. There is no specific target for night shifts.

The maternity unit is the most problematic area with around half of the understaffed shifts occurring in that department, a report to be seen by members of the board said.

Dudley Group chief executive Paula Clark said: "Patient safety is always our priority, and so when nurse staffing levels fall below the planned level, we have processes and measures in place to ensure our patients continue to receive safe, appropriate care."

"When a shortfall is identified, the situation is first reviewed by a senior nurse. If arrangements cannot be made using the existing staff on site, we will then attempt to fill the shortfall from our own staff bank. If no bank staff are available, we will then employ agency staff to ensure patients receive safe, appropriate care."

Meanwhile, the trust that runs Sandwell Hospital is planning to recruit around 100 nurses from the Philippines to make up for a shortfall in staffing numbers.

A report written ahead of a Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust meeting this week reveals the trust is looking abroad for a recruitment drive to help fill a gap in nurse cover.

According to the report - written by director of organisation development Raffaella Goodby - the trust needs to recruit around 24 band five nurses a month to make up for vacancies and predicted turnover.

PUPILS ARE INSPIRED BY A SHARPE EXAMPLE



Football hero Lee Sharpe opens the new library at Huntingtree Primary School in Halesowen, seen with pupils and staff

FORMER Premier League footballer Lee Sharpe returned to his home town to cut the ribbon on a new school library.

The ex-Manchester United midfielder gave an inspiring speech to pupils at Huntingtree Primary School in Halesowen and said he was delighted to be back home.

Lee marked the opening by cutting the ribbon before speaking to pupils at an assembly.

The 44-year-old said: "It is nice to be back in the Midlands. My sister, who works at the school, said the students had done a lesson where they discussed ideas of what they want

to be when they grow up and how they would get there.

"I spoke to the kids about perseverance and my experience of getting let go by clubs and practising football by myself in my garden."

"After that all the kids went in and had plenty to write about with a lot of ideas - they were pretty inspired which is nice to know."

Lee, who also played for England eight times, grew up in Halesowen and enjoyed a successful career with the Red Devils under Sir Alex Ferguson, winning nine medals in

total including the Premier League title three times and the FA Cup twice.

Deputy headteacher Emma Grice said: "He is a great local role model. Lee spoke to them about getting rejected from local clubs but kept on going and ended up being really successful at Manchester United. The message was if you work hard enough, you can get somewhere, and being local as well, it makes the message seem real for the children."

Plans for the new library at the school were put in place in September and Ms Grice added that it has proved popular with pupils.

COURT

Attempted murder denied by partner

A 31-year-old Dudley man has denied attempting to murder his partner.

Courier Karl Hughes, aged 31, of George Close, Kates Hill, pleaded not guilty at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Thursday to attempting to murder Toni Bennett, aged 29, on November 21 last year.

He also denied being in possession of a bladed article. He was remanded in custody for a trial to start on May 16 at the same court.

He was arrested after police were called by medics treating an injured woman in George Close.

SPORT

School seek £10k to revamp a pitch

A SCHOOL in Halesowen has launched a bid to secure funding towards a £160,000 all-weather sports pitch.

Leasowes High School is hoping to source up to £10,000 for the project from Dudley Council. The school has made a bid for up to £5,000 from the two community forums.

It is the third project of its kind in Dudley borough to create new or upgrade pitches. Similar plans have been tabled at The Dell Stadium and Hillcrest School.

INJURED

Taxi driver is found with fractured skull

A TAXI driver was taken to hospital suffering a fractured skull after an incident in Brierley Hill.

The man was found with serious head injuries in Bell Street South, near the junction with High Street, following an incident just before 9.30pm on Sunday.

Detective Inspector Colin Mattinson said: "An investigation has been launched after a man was found in Bell Street South, Brierley Hill, with a serious head injury. The man, a 60-year-old taxi driver, suffered a fractured skull and is being treated in hospital. It is not yet clear how he came about his injuries." Call CID on 101.

INSIDE

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Motorcyclist died after losing control



Robert 'Claude' Christopher

A MOTORCYCLIST was killed after losing control of his bike and crashing into oncoming traffic, an inquest heard.

Robert 'Claude' Christopher, aged 39, died on December 28 last year after 'dropping' his bike to avoid a vehicle turning left towards a shop.

Three vehicles were involved in the crash on Oldbury Road, Rowley Regis, when Mr Christopher came off his bike and crashed into a Land Rover.

PC Paul du Cors from the West Midlands Police collision investigation

unit, confirmed that Mr Christopher, of Regis Heath Road, Rowley Regis, had been travelling at 50mph, above the 30mph limit. He was on his way home to try to find a lost wallet.

Also travelling with him was his friend Hal Kirk, who noticed the vehicle turning left and applied his brakes twice to signal to Mr Christopher that danger was ahead.

Mr Christopher had been moving to overtake the red Nissan Duke, driven by Brian Dale, who was signalling to turn towards the convenience store.

CCTV from the shop showed that Mr Dale took evasive action to avoid Mr Christopher who had 'lost control of his bike'.

Mr Christopher was pronounced dead at the scene. A pathologist's report revealed he died of head injuries as a result of the collision.

Coroner Mr Zafar Siddique recorded a verdict of death by way of a road traffic collision.

Mr Christopher's wife Julianne told the inquest: "Claude was always helping people. He was a family man."

Immigrant stole to pay surgery bill for mother

AN IMMIGRANT who turned to crime to pay for his mother's surgery in Albania has been put behind bars for two years.

Fatmir Brozi had lawfully lived in this country for 14 years and is married to a British citizen, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

During that time he had been convicted of a single previous offence, an affray following a dispute at work.

But last year the 32-year-old burgled two homes in seven months, escaping with cash and jewellery worth more than £65,000, said Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting.

Brozi forced a door and smashed a window to burgle the house of a 71-year-old woman with a disabled daughter in Birds Meadow, Pensnett, on May 24, taking property worth £2,760.

Bloodstain

He cut himself and left a bloodstain that was later used to match with his DNA.

Brozi was arrested and was on bail when he broke into a second home during a trip to Great Yarmouth in December. He took £60,000 worth of jewellery and £2,500 cash but damaged his knuckle and was identified through another bloodstain.

The defendant had a £6,000 watch from the haul and £1,320 cash on him when arrested for the second time, explained the prosecutor.

The occupants of both properties were out when the day time offences took place.

Mr Gurdeep Garcha, defending, observed: "He is far from a professional burglar, having left clues to his identity at both scenes."

"He turned to crime to get money for an operation for his mother who fell ill and needed surgery back in Albania. He had regularly sent money home since arriving in this country."

Brozi, from Addlington Way, Tividale, admitted both burglaries and was jailed for two years by Judge Katrina Montgomery QC. She told him: "You made off with a substantial amount of cash and jewellery – some of which was irreplaceable."

She ordered the money found in his possession when arrested be returned to the victim in Norfolk since it came from that burglary.

Bishop tours emergency services



Bishop of Dudley, the Rt Rev Graham Usher, chatted with firefighters during his emergency services tour

THE Bishop of Dudley completed a tour of the town's emergency services to find out more about the work they do.

Rt Rev Graham Usher started his visits at Dudley Fire Station, before heading to Brierley Hill Police Station and then Dudley Ambulance Hub.

He said: "I was delighted to be able to spend a whole day visiting the fire, police and ambulance services in Dudley and to experience the incredible work of the emer-

gency services across our borough.

"It was good to meet staff and to hear more about the challenges and joys of their work.

"The challenges are often around budget cuts and the misuse of these precious services by the public."

Breathing

The Bishop chatted to firefighters and donned breathing apparatus to take part in a simulated search in a smoke-filled building 'whilst breathing like Darth Vader'.

At the police station, he met with Chief Superintendent Richard Fisher before being given a tour of the station, including the cells.

Finally he spoke to ambulance service area manager Mark Chapman and ambulance crews about their life-saving work and highly skilled training.

He said: "Society owes the women and men of the emergency services an enormous debt of gratitude for their skill, care, dedication and commitment."

More money being spent on network of towpaths

A PROJECT to transform historic towpaths along Dudley's canals has been given a £460,000 boost.

The extra cash is part of a wider £1.7 million revamp to get more people to explore the borough on foot and by cycle.

Public transport co-ordinator Centro awarded Dudley Council an additional £460,000 as part of their Managing Short Trips project. It will enable the restoration of towpaths surrounding the Buckpool Nature Reserve and The Dell Stadium in Pensnett.

Three canal routes in Dudley were originally earmarked for improvement with work getting under way on a series of towpaths around Stourbridge last year. Cycling links will also be created between Brierley Hill and Pensnett and Stourbridge and Kingswinford.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said the extra money would now enable more towpaths to be restored.

She said: "The Managing Short Trips project is all about getting people out of cars and on bikes and walking to work instead of driving. So far the money we have received has gone towards our first project of revamping towpaths in Stourbridge by the Bonded Warehouse area and Kinver Street basin. Now we will concentrate on our second project being around the Pensnett area.

"We have other ideas to start work on a possible third project on towpaths around Halesowen as well – that is something we may be concentrating on in the future," she added.

Litter picks held for Queen's 90th

AN MP, councillors from Halesowen and residents will join forces to hold three litter picks as part of the national Clean for the Queen campaign.

The campaign is to clear up Britain in time for Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday, which will be officially celebrated in June 2016.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris said: "I will be joining all three litter picks over the weekend to help this great campaign. It is about firstly helping clean up our local area and also celebrating the long and committed reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II."

Litter picks take place on Saturday 10am to 12pm at Hope Street Park, 10.30am to 12.30pm at Hawne Park and 1pm to 3pm at Fartherless Barn Church.

Murray will lead Davis Cup defence

ANDY Murray will be in the West Midlands to lead Great Britain's defence of the Davis Cup. Murray, who became a father for the first time earlier this month, will be at Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena with the British team from tomorrow (Friday).

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£500 cash donated to boost new projects

HALESOWEN Civic Society has been granted money to help members establish their voice for the community.

The Community Forum 'Love Your Local Community Fund' granted the group £500 to help them kick-start a number of projects in the area.

Plans were first established for the group in October last year at Halesowen College, with members including Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris, councillors Ian Cooper and Alan Taylor.

They aim to help boost business and tourism in the town, as well as give residents the chance to have their say.

Elaine Cammies, community participation director at Halesowen College, explained: "There are many projects we are focusing on, one being a new website which can act as a central base where people will be able to go to find out about local history walks, talks and community group meetings.

Plaques

"We want to put our own plaques in place around the town in areas of historical value too, similar to the English Heritage blue plaques. So we are looking into nominating areas where plaques may go."

Fellow members of the group include Cornbow Centre manager Eve O'Connor, Leasowes Walled Garden and Abbey Trust campaigners Carol and Mick Freer and Halesowen College principal Keith Bate.

For more details contact Elaine on ecammies@halesowen.ac.uk.

Appeal got driver extra week in jail

A MOTORIST who ran down a policeman has been handed an extra week behind bars for wasting the time of judges with a 'hopeless' appeal bid.

Geoffrey Dillion, aged 52, of Burnt Tree, Tipton, was locked up for two-and-a-half years at Wolverhampton Crown Court on July 7 after being convicted of dangerous driving and driving while disqualified. He argued at the Appeal Court in London that the convictions were 'unsafe' and his sentence too tough.

But Lord Justice Gross – sitting with Mr Justice Dove – said there was 'no merit' in his complaints. He told him: "This was a hopeless application in every sense and an expensive and time-wasting exercise." Dillion was ordered to serve an extra seven days.

£1,200 fraud is denied by man, 55

A MAN has denied a £1,200 fraud in the village of Iverley, near Stourbridge. David Hughes, 55, of Hambleton Road, Halesowen, will appear at Stafford Crown Court on March 29 accused of a false representation.

Disgraced inspector aims to clear name



Jaswant Singh - former police inspector

A DISGRACED police inspector is on a mission to clear his name after he was sacked for misconduct last year. Jaswant Singh, from Stourbridge, was dismissed by a West Midlands Police disciplinary panel in November after he was found to have 'deliberately lied' to his chief inspector to try and cover up an error.

The officer told colleagues to 'take their time' despite officers needing urgent help dealing with violent yobs at Olivio pizza shop in Stourbridge town centre in February 2014.

Mr Singh has now employed solicitor Kevin Hall to launch his bid to clear his name and is. The findings will then be put before the force's chief constable.

Mr Hall said: "At approximately 2.20am on the morning of February 23, 2014, a disorder took place at Olivio Pizza, High Street, Stourbridge. As part of his appeal against dismissal witnesses are urgently sought."

They are keen to locate a woman who was seen filming the incident on her phone and a door supervisor working at the takeaway. The panel concluded Mr Singh, who had 24 years service, had breached professional standards relating to honesty and integrity and said his actions 'fell short' of that expected of a senior officer.

They also found he had lied about being at the scene. It was alleged in the hearing that he had gone to the wrong pizza shop. The former senior officer denied the allegations.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Kevin Hall, Excalibur Investigations Limited on 07957 177173, on behalf of Askew Solicitors, Coventry.

Police warning over con by professional beggars

PROFESSIONAL beggars who are on full benefits have been attempting to dupe shoppers outside Tesco in Cradley Heath by getting them to hand over money.

Police have told the public not to give any cash to the con artists who have been posing as homeless and begging for donations outside the supermarket on Foxoak Street.

Chiefs said a group had been begging outside the supermarket to get money out of people when they are receiving benefits.

Gangs of around half a dozen people have been gathering outside the shop.

Officers revealed they had put a dispersal order in place to try and ban the nuisance beggars from hassling shoppers.

They also said they would be seeking to convict those involved.

Old Hill and Cradley Heath Police said on its Twitter account: "Please do not give money to beggars outside Tesco, Cradley Heath. They are professional beggars who are in receipt of full benefits.

Dispersal

"There is a dispersal order in place for the Cradley Heath area to target the professional beggars and seek convictions."

Cradley Heath councillor John Tipper said he was aware of the con, which he described as 'appalling'. He said shoppers were being intimidated by the beggars.

He said: "They used to congregate around cash machines pressuring people to give money to them."

"Given the problems with homelessness across the borough it is really appalling preying on people's generosity. It's an appalling thing to do when people are already hard pressed."

He said many people had fallen into the trap and mistaken the group as homeless people.

"It's not surprising the amount of people that have been willing to offer them money but my advice would be don't," he said.

Councillor Tipper believes it will be difficult to stop the beggars, even with the dispersal order in place.

"The police are spending a lot of time working on this but it's difficult for them. They can disperse people but as soon as the police aren't around they can come back. It's an ongoing problem and it's going to be difficult for the police to keep on top of it," he said.



Dudley Zoo's young Bornean orang utan, Sprout, loves playing with towels and sheets, and needs more of them for his playtime

Sprout's fun is all wrapped up at zoo

IT'S playtime at Dudley Zoo for Sprout the orang-utan who is having a fun time getting all wrapped up.

The zoo's Bornean orang-utans love nothing more than playing with towels and bed linen – and now zoo bosses have put out a plea to families for donations.

Staff are on the lookout for any unwanted clean bed linen and towels which the four apes, including four-year-old Sprout, can play with.

Pat Stevens, Dudley Zoo's upper primates section leader, said: "All four of our orangs love playing with bed sheets, but especially Sprout."

"They wrap themselves in them, put them over their heads, drag them around their enclosure and dens, and make up all sorts of games. But the sheets only withstand a day's orang play and then we have to throw them away, so we're constantly going through our own supply."

People can hand over clean sheets, towels and duvet covers (but not duvets) to the customer services team in Dudley Zoo Safari Shop, from 10am to 4pm.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Motorist in court over crash death

A 22-year-old Dudley man has appeared in court charged with causing death by dangerous driving.

Jordan Edwards, of Terry Street, was arrested last week in connection with the death of Gary Wroblewski, after handing himself in to police. Mr Wroblewski, 53, was found by paramedics in the road in Netherton on November 6. He could not be saved.

Unemployed Edwards appeared before Dudley Magistrates Court, where he was remanded in custody to appear before Wolverhampton Crown Court on March 22.

Carers can link up with history group

CARERS in Dudley borough are invited to join a new monthly group to research family history.

The group will meet at the Dudley Archives and Local History Centre on the Tipton Road in Dudley and professional support and resources will be available. Activities will be available at the centre for the person who is cared for while the carer takes part in the family history group.

The first meeting is on Monday from 10.30am to 12.30pm. All sessions are free but must be booked. Call (01384) 818360 or (01384) 812770.

Second women's group on cards

HALESOWEN College could be hosting a second Women's Institute group. The new group has gone from strength to strength since its first get-together in October.

Halesowen WI has lots of events planned over the next couple of months, such as pamper evenings and an adventure day. Elaine Cammies, community participation director at Halesowen College, said: "The response has been amazing." Call Elaine on 0121 602 7777.

Looking back 400 years into the past

SPEAKER Margaret Bradley will mark the forthcoming 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death with a talk on Cradley As It Was In 1616.

Her research reveals that place names in use today, such as Colley Lane and Two Gates, were already in wide use by the early Stuart period.

The free event is being held at Overend Methodist Mission in Banners Street on Thursday, March 17, from 7.30pm.

Violin and piano duo

A DUO will be performing a recital at St John's Church in Halesowen on Saturday morning. Violinist Shulah Oliver and pianist Malcolm Drummond will be performing music by Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert at the hour-long concert, from 10.15am. Tickets cost £5 on the door.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



JO Heywood, head of a very upmarket boarding school in Ascot, says children should be raised gender-neutral and "if a little girl wants to spend time in a fireman's outfit, then that is to be encouraged." Tut, tut, headteacher. Isn't she aware that there is no such thing as a fireman's outfit because there is no such thing as a fireman? In these politically-correct times, they are all fire fighters.

AS for encouraging females to get into fire fighters' outfits, many need absolutely no encouragement. Ask any male stripper.

ONE of the delusions of our celebrity-obsessed age is that if someone plays an intelligent character on the TV, that actor must be brilliant in real life. We hacks are more sceptical. When you interview celebs you find that, without a script, most of them are quite ordinary. So let's not get too excited about a group of showbiz characters, led by Jude Law, descending on the Jungle refugee camp at Calais and offering great insights into what must be done. We should not assume that the opinions of playwrights and comedians count for more than those of plumbers or teachers.



THE revelation that Pope John Paul II had a long relationship with a married woman raises once again the troubled issue of celibacy in the Catholic Church. A Daily Telegraph reader says he knew of a village priest living in Czechoslovakia in the 1920s who employed an attractive housekeeper who had a young son: "Everybody knew who the father was and they all lived happily ever after."

I AM reminded of Dave Allen's tale of the handsome priest in an Irish village. All the locals called him Father except his own children who called him Uncle.

AN advert catches my eye. A big national charity which pays its chief executive £120,000 a year wants a manager for a small-town charity shop. The salary, for a 30-hour week, is £14,000 a year. My spies tell me such rates are the norm for charity-shop employees. It's surprising no-one has set up a charity for them.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Man, 69, killed himself over knotweed fears

A MAN killed himself after finding out that Japanese knotweed was growing on land he owned in Stourbridge, an inquest heard.

William Jones was worried about the financial implications of the weed spreading onto public land adjacent to his.

At Smethwick Council House last week, lead coroner for the Black Country Mr Zafar Siddique concluded that Mr Jones, known as Bill to his friends and family, of Brettle Lane, Amblecote, died by way of suicide.

The inquest heard he was found hanged at home by one of his sons on February 13.

At the hearing, Mr Jones' wife Helen said her husband, a former butcher, owned a piece of land in Brook Street which had recently been surveyed and revealed that Japanese knotweed was growing on the site.

She said: "He was worried about the financial implications of it, it grows so rapidly. He was a family man. If he had thought it through I'm sure he would have never gone through with it."

Mr Jones had been expected to pick up his wife after a shopping trip on the day of his death, the inquest heard.

"He sounded quite cheery on the phone," Mrs Jones added. "But then I made three calls to the house and he didn't pick up. So I called my son who went into the house and found him."

She said her husband had no financial worries when he died. She added he was worried the weed would spread onto public owned land next to his land.

Mr Jones, aged 69, who had a history of depression, was taken to Russell's Hall Hospital in Dudley. He was suffering from brain damage and died a day later on February 14. The cause of death was confirmed as hypoxic brain damage due to attempted hanging.

"Bill was the type of person who always liked to find the answer to things," Mrs Jones added. "But this is one thing he couldn't find the answer to."

In March 2014 an inquest heard how a lab technician from Rowley Regis murdered his wife before killing himself after being driven 'mad' by Japanese knotweed growing over his house. Kenneth McRae and his wife Jane were found dead at their home on Bryan Budd Close on July 17, 2013.

Car pushed into canal by yobs



The wrecked Renault Scenic is recovered from the canal

AN empty car was pushed into a canal by three yobs.

The Renault Scenic estate was reported to have been left running unattended in Fisher Street at 6.30am on Monday and is believed to have then been stolen.

Just over an hour later at 7.45am, a nearby resident alerted the police after witnessing three people push the car into the canal near Ashwood Junction.

Passer-by Steve Basterfield was walking with his granddaughter when he spotted the car.

He said: "I saw the Renault, which look to have just been dumped, full of water with smashed windows."

"An auto-rescue team arrived very soon after I called and one of the workers put on a water suit and jumped in to the canal to retrieve and drag it out."

Police spokesman Deb Edmonds said: "We first received a call at 6.30am Monday to reports of a Renault Scenic being left running unattended in Fisher Street. It was seen a short time later being pushed into the Stourbridge canal by three people."

Anyone with information should call 101.

Boy racer is caught out by car cruise ban

A DRIVER who raced through the Black Country has been handed a suspended jail term after four councils united to launch a civil court action against car cruisers.

Reece Sheeran was given a suspended three-month sentence by a judge at a High Court hearing in Birmingham last week. Judge David Worster imposed the sentence after concluding that Sheeran, aged 24, had raced a vehicle 'at speed against another vehicle' in West Bromwich in breach of the court order.

Another judge had made the order just over a year earlier following an application by the four Black Country local authorities - Wolverhampton City Council, Dudley Council, Sandwell Council and Walsall Council. The order bars people from taking part in a 'car cruise' in areas managed by the councils. Council bosses described the legal action as 'ground-breaking'.

Judge Worster said Sheeran had been racing in May on the A41 dual carriageway in the borough of Sandwell in breach of an order made in December 2014. He concluded that Sheeran, of Dogpool Lane, Stirchley, Birmingham, was in contempt of court after he admitted breaching the injunction.

Sandwell Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper said: "Car cruising is noisy, dangerous and illegal."



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MAY			17th CARDIFF FLOWER SHOW	£35.00	£34.00
2nd-3rd	DOWNTON ABBEY	£139.50	17th DR WHO EXPERIENCE	£39.50	£38.00
4th-8th	ILFRACOMBE	£265.00	18th COTSWOLDS SPLENDOUR	£25.00	£24.00
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Authorities drastically slash spending on CCTV network

COUNCILS have slashed their spending on CCTV drastically over the past three years, new figures reveal.

Local authorities across the whole of the UK committed at least £277 million to the installation, maintenance and also monitoring of the systems between 2012 and 2015.

Research by campaign group Big Brother Watch found also reveals during that period local authorities have reduced the number of cameras by 12.5 per cent and reduced spending on CCTV by 46.6 per cent. Between 2012 and 2015, Wolverhampton council spent a total of £291,600 operating 131 cameras compared to over £1.6m on 244 from 2007 and 2011.

Robert Plant to headline at Wilderness

BLACK Country rock star Robert Plant is headlining a summer music festival in the Cotswolds.

The former Led Zeppelin singer and his band The Sensational Space Shifters are top of the bill at the Wilderness Festival, held at Cornbury Park, near Oxford, from August 4 to 7.

Walsall-born musician Goldie will also be performing with the band The Heritage Orchestra. Wilderness will also see US group The Flaming Lips performing their album The Soft Bulletin in full.

Plant, who will be 68 this year, and his band are on tour in the United States next month and the festival performance will be the only UK show this year.

He said: "In recent times The Space Shifters and I have found a natural home for our music in beautiful places that often carry their own unique resonance, I know the Wilderness Festival is one of those places."

In Dudley, 52 CCTV cameras cost the council £510,000 – this figure went down from £848,455 being spent on 127 cameras. Walsall forked out £1.4m on just 90, which went down around £480,000 and 40 cameras. Birmingham City Council was previously the highest spender but has now cut back by 60 per cent to £5,598,168 since 2012, when it spent £14.2m.

A previous study found that between 2007 and 2011, town halls spent a total of £515m – which is the equivalent of £128m a year – and controlled at least 51,600 CCTV cameras. Last year there were warnings that police could find it more difficult to detect crime if councils switch off cameras.

Big Brother Watch chief executive Renate Samson said: "Whilst the findings of this report appear encouraging, the reduction in spending may be nothing more than a lull before the storm of more intrusive, biometric or 3D cameras appearing on our streets."

Simon Blackburn, of the Local Government Association, said: "Where it is cost effective and has an impact, councils continue to invest in and review their public-space CCTV operations."

Oar-some achievement for rowers



We did it – Lee Felton, left, from Dudley, and Sean Lannon celebrate rowing across the Atlantic Ocean

A PAIR of courageous oarsmen have completed one of the world's toughest challenges by rowing across the Atlantic Ocean.

Biology teacher Lee Felton, 30, from Dudley, crossed the finish line of the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge with his friend software engineer Sean Lannon, 31, from Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, finishing 19th overall in the race.

The team, called Square One Atlantic, took on the arduous challenge to raise money for charities Sport for

Freedom and Rape Crisis England and Wales. It took the intrepid duo 65 days, 13 hours and 20 minutes, before crossing the finish on February 24.

Starting on December 14, they crossed the Atlantic from La Gomera in the Canary Islands to the Caribbean island of Antigua, rowing more than 3,000 miles.

Following their arrival at Antigua, Mr Felton wrote on his Facebook page: "We did it! Just got into bed on dry land after 65 days at sea."

The team rowed in shifts of two

hours on and two hours off, with the fleet of racers facing the first major tropical storm in January since 1978.

The exhausted crews suffered from sleep deprivation, seasickness and excruciating body sores. Pace on board the boat was extremely limited and there were no bathroom facilities.

Square One Atlantic originally signed up to the race as a four, however, two of the rowers dropped out, making the challenge even greater for the determined pair of Sean and Lee.

They hope to have raised £30,000.

HART tests for paramedic candidates

MORE than 30 paramedics were vying for a place on the latest training course to become a member of the Hazardous Area Response Team (HART).

HART teams provide paramedic care within a hazardous environment that would otherwise be beyond the reach of NHS care.

Types of incidents they could be called upon include working at height using ropes, floods, infectious disease and at firearms incidents.

Staff aiming to be selected had to go through several tests in an exercise at Himley Hall last week, which included a two-mile run, swimming 20 metres in a dry suit, helmet and gloves, a detailed clinical assessment and working as part of a team.

Fit

HART manager James Price said: "The staff who put themselves forward were, first and foremost, excellent paramedics."

"To get through this initial round of selection they also needed to be fit, determined, up for working in a team, supportive and not afraid to show leadership. We were delighted by the quality of staff and it will not be easy to pick the successful candidates."

Successful candidates get three months of intensive training.

Earth and Air inspire poetry for museum

AN annual poetry competition run by the Black Country Living Museum has opened for entries. This year's theme is on 'Earth and Air', inspired by historical events in our region.

The competition is open to adults aged 18 plus and poetry in any style. The first prize is £100, a family ticket to the museum and publication on the museum website, and there are other prizes. The closing date for entries is July 29 at 5pm. Visit www.bclm.co.uk

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

£100k and you can land one on me, Jezza

FORMER Top Gear producer Oisín Tymon has just been awarded £100,000 in compensation for the rumpus where he took one for the team after Jeremy Clarkson was denied his steak dinner.

Now, of course, former Chronicle motoring writer Clarkson's actions were totally unacceptable, and Mr Tymon has quite rightly been kept on by the BBC.

Even so, it's quite a tidy little windfall, particularly given that Mr Tymon has suffered no financial hardship as a result of the incident.

To put it into context, when I took a pasting off two drunken louts while going about my business in Stourbridge 11 years ago this week, I got £1,800 in compensation for two broken ribs and a scar.

The moral is, I suppose, if you are going to get a hiding, best make sure it is at the hands of someone famous. And Jezza, please feel free to deck me one if you are passing.

□□□

LAST week it was reported that the world was finally catching up with me, with cassette tapes making a long overdue comeback.

Now it emerges that another of my great loves is being adopted by the London hipster crowd. As a former judge of the Banks's Pork Idol competition (check it out, it's true), I used to think KVE Golden Roast scratching were the height of Black Country sophistication. But my tastes have broadened. These days I'm quite partial to The Snaffling Pig Co's gourmet range sprinkled with cracked black pepper, or its sea salt and balsamic vinegar line.

Anyway, sales of pork scratchings are up nearly 11 per cent on last year, with the likes of Fortnum & Mason and Harrods jumping aboard the pig-wagon.

Just goes to show: Some people are dedicated followers of fashion. Others just lead.

□□□

NEVER understood the appeal of the Oscars. Or the Baftas, the Brits, or the Grammys for that matter.

If you like a film, you like it. You don't need some silver-haired critic on the other side of the Atlantic to validate your choice. And it's the same with music. If you're a lifelong fan of Showaddywaddy, that's fine. You don't listen to Adele because she's got an armful of tiny record players.

So who thought it would make it more interesting for this year's Oscar winners to drone on about politics?

Look, Lenny Capri, or whatever you call yourself, your job is to memorise the lines that someone else has written, not to bore the pants off us about global warming. It's the equivalent of the washing machine repair man offering tips about the Tokyo stock market. Stick to what you're good at.



Potty about history – Selwyn working on one of the projects



Selwyn Owens with museum chief executive Ian Walden in 2006



Selwyn's most satisfying project the Worker's Institute

Selwyn helped rebuild Black Country history

RICHARD GUTTRIDGE meets Selwyn Owens, who helped create the authentic look of the Black Country Living Museum

IT is one of the region's most iconic attractions which visitors come from around the world to see. But if it wasn't for Selwyn Owens, the Black Country Living Museum would not be what it is today.

Selwyn has retired after almost 30 years and while he is leaving the museum the mark he has left on it will last for generations.

Many of the famous buildings which line the museum's streets were reconstructed by Selwyn. As construction manager, he was responsible for making sure they were built without a hitch.

Selwyn joined what was still a fledgling museum in 1987, intrigued by the possibility of transforming the site into one of the region's greatest attractions.

He had previously worked for local authorities in Wolverhampton and Birmingham but decided the time was right for a new challenge. And it was a decision he didn't regret.

Mastermind

The construction boss would go on to mastermind many of the museum's most famous construction jobs, including the entire 1930s-style Birmingham Road – one of the museum's two main streets. He also led the reconstruction of Cradley Heath's Worker's Institute, the Victorian St James' School, which was originally in Salop Street, the Lime-light cinema from Brierley Hill and the traditional sweet shop.

He said: "The 30 years have absolutely flown past. I have been so busy so involved in these projects that I haven't had time to stop or stand still at all."

Seeing a project through from start to finish could be an exhausting challenge.

Of the majority of the buildings Selwyn, who



Black Country Museum Living Museum construction manager Selwyn Owens is retiring

is now 65, said: "I would draw them up, how they are going to look. It's a team game, it's not all down to me but my work involves the technical drawings, surveys, procurement of materials and the quality control of the building going up."

There is one building in particular that will always have a special place in his heart because of the peculiar way that it came to exist.

An American man had come to the Black Country to trace his family history and had learned his ancestors had once ran a sweet shop in Dudley called Cookes. He then ap-

proached the museum to see if they could recreate it."

Selwyn said: "We painstakingly replicated that shop from a suitable building after the curators at the time gave me a photograph."

"I remember in the front of that photo there was a man, his wife and a little girl. We managed to track her (the little girl) down and by then she was in her 80s and in a wheelchair. She broke down in tears and said 'it's exactly how I remember it'. I broke down in tears. That's the kind of job it is."

The museum's sweet shop building is based

on what was then a hairdressers in Oldbury. There are some buildings, including the mine entrance, which Selwyn has had to dream up himself based on research.

"You really have to sit down and think about the design, the materials, the position on the site and the relationship with other buildings," he said.

The job has thrown up many challenges over the years but there is one in particular that stands out.

He said: "We had problems with the Worker's Institute. We had put it out to an outside contractor to do it but it went into liquidation leaving us in a right mess."

"We managed to finish it and it was immensely satisfying to be able to pick it up when it had already started and finish it."

Because of the experience, the Worker's Institute remains among the projects he is most proud of.

Fruition

Although the Rolf Street Baths took 10 years to come to fruition, it was generally 12 to 18 months from when a building was first sketched by Selwyn to when it was completed at the museum.

He said: "The ways of doing things are a bit strange. It took me probably 18 months to change thought process. Having worked in local government and for a contractor it was all about doing the job as quickly as possible and making a profit. The change at the museum was that it was all about quality and authenticity. That was the main criteria."

Selwyn said he was proud to see how the museum had grown over the last three decades, particularly as he is a born and bred Dudley man.

"It's extremely satisfying. Every time I go back down there I get a real buzz from seeing all the buildings. People come from all over the world and it's great to see."

"I am immensely proud of what I have helped to achieve as part of a team forming the museum. It has been a labour of love but after 30 years it is time for a rest."

Although retired, Selwyn has already been coaxed into going back to the museum on a part-time basis to help with the next project.

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Added worry of the parking meter ticking

LAST year I wrote of the closure of the Holly Hall medical call-in centre closing and moving to Russells Hall Hospital A&E department.

On Saturday evening my daughter phoned me to say that my grandson was running a very high temperature, would I drive them to the walk-in centre at Russells Hall Hospital if needed. An hour and a half later, emergency 111 rang back saying take him to the walk-in.

An hour and a half later they saw him. I then left as they decided to take him to a ward with a suspected

chest infection. He was not taken to a ward, they were left in the parents' room. There was nowhere for him to lie, so he was curled up in his mother's arms, running a high temperature in an exceptionally hot room. The hospital discharged him at 1am on Sunday morning saying there was nothing wrong.

On Tuesday I returned him with his mother to the same hospital. He was taken to the examination ward and again they said they could find nothing wrong, but decided to keep him 48 hours. Once he was admitted he had

very good service by the medical staff. My grandson was discharged Wednesday night with medication.

There was better and faster service at the original walk-in centre, up to hospital admittance. The surroundings were not so daunting for a child and it was free to park. For every one and a half hours I parked it cost £5. I am the first to say money doesn't matter were health and life is concerned, but the worry of the meter ticking increases the pressure.

N CADDICK
Dudley

Doubtful over open air theatre

WHILST I am in favour of the improvements to Dudley town centre, I cannot understand the site approved for the outdoor theatre.

Unless there are going to be massive speakers installed, it will be impossible to hear any performances, as it is very close to the road and traffic noise will be a problem.

As Stone Street Square is under-used, it would have been better situated there.

The weather will also be a factor in its success.

The site looks good but the practicality is a bit dubious.

Only time will tell.

The council seems obsessed with creating open spaces while the plan for the Hippodrome site is becoming a joke.

Save the Hippodrome – it could be used for all types of entertainment, seven days a week, regardless of the weather, and for the benefit of all.

P WINCHURCH
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Come on Dave, why not cut the spin?

NO sooner has the starting gun fired, then the usual letter appears sponsored by the David Cameron spin doctors, ie the Tory donors, promising the apocalypse if we leave the European Union.

Then Dave claims our security is at risk if we leave. Hang on Dave, you put our security at risk along with Osborne by all your cuts to the armed forces, the police, etc.

To prove it just walk around any neighbourhood and count how many bobbies you see on the beat, but don't count the cardboard cut outs we see in shop doorways.

If we leave the EU, the country will not sink, there will be no famine. More than half the world are not in the EU, and they prosper a lot better than we do.

Alternatively vote for Dave, the man who stood drinking beer with the Chinese leaders, whilst watching our steel industry sink. He promised to cut immigration to under 100,000. I bet Dave has not told you it will be in the millions if we don't leave now.

Oh and by the way Dave, don't forget to wear your hi-vis vest, or do your rolled up sleeves routine, pretending to be a normal working person.

C LLOYD
Dudley

Tune to halt all of this electrickery

FRENCH-OWNED electricity producer Engie has quietly announced closure of another power station. This time it's Rugeley. Why?

Well its coal-fired and our Government wants all of them closed or wood burning by 2025! Or could it be that they hope/expect to get better rates of payment come autumn for power coming from gas-fired plants? Could it be that with our worsening deficit of supply compared to potential demand they expect to get higher rates for 'electrickery'? Could we be about to be 'persuaded' to pay them more to supply us with a basic need?

Although wholesale prices for electricity have plummeted (like gas and oil) no savings have been passed on to consumers. Let's have MPs do something about this, before we have people dying because they are unable to keep the power flowing.

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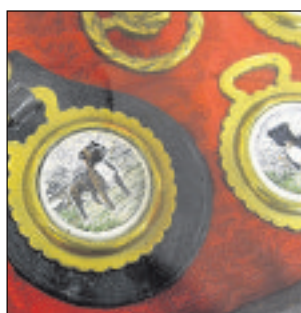
Treasurer Keith Jackson with Christie and a bust from the displays



Councillor Peter Hughes, who also a committee member



Committee members at the opening of the museum



Memorabilia on show at the Bull Terrier Heritage Centre in Wednesbury

Staffie centre reopens

ONE of the Black Country's favourite dog breeds, the Staffordshire Bull Terrier is being celebrated with the reopening of a museum at a new location.

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier Heritage Centre first opened in 2005 at Wednesbury's Old Post Office with the aim of disproving the breed's stereotype as ferocious and dangerous.

But having been asked to leave the premises two years ago the charity behind the centre were forced to move the exhibits into storage.

Bosses searched desperately for a new home

and last year struck a deal to lease a former health centre in Albert Street, Wednesbury.

After renovating the building so it complied with the required standards to welcome visitors, the exhibition has now re-opened.

Gillian McDermott, member of the Staffordshire Bull Terrier Exhibition Group, said: "It is a big relief that we are out of storage and again able to display our wonderful exhibits.

"The project is all about changing perceptions of the Staffordshire Bull Terrier.

"They are a real family dog. It is only when they are put in the wrong hands there is problems." The exhibition contains a variety of

memorabilia collected from all over the world including books from Australia and badges from the Czech Republic.

There is also a prized collection of 145 copies of 'The Stafford' magazine dating back to the 1940s.

The exhibition will open most Saturdays and at other times by appointment. The exhibition group will also be showing at Crufts in March.

Gillian, who has six Staffordshire Bull Terriers of her own, said: "If we can get one convert who didn't like Staffordshire Bull Terriers before and we can get them to see them differently, than we will have done our job."



Badges on display in the Staffordshire Bull Terrier Heritage Centre



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Drink-drive crusade cop is sacked after road ban

A SHAMED West Midlands Police officer from Sedgley, who once helped lead the force's crackdown on drink-driving, has been sacked – after being convicted of the offence himself.

Pc Chris Blount, of Rowan Road, was stopped on November 6 at 2.30am on the Black Country Route after patrolling officers spotted him 'struggling to control' his Vauxhall Mokka.

Pc Blount, who was a member of the collision investigation unit, was seen standing by the car apparently looking at damage. The officers looked back moments later and saw the car travelling slowly.

Slurred

After seeing the driver was struggling to control the car, the officers pulled Pc Blount over, recognising him as a colleague. His speech was slurred and he was unsteady on his feet – and officers could also smell alcohol.

In January, he admitted one count of drink-driving. He is said to have given a reading of 101mg per 100ml in a breathalyser – nearly three times the limit of 30mg per 100ml of breath.

City magistrates fined him £1,425 and disqualified him from driving for two years for the offence.

West Midlands Police spokeswoman Gina Lycett said: "Following a misconduct hearing held on February 24, Pc Chris Blount was dismissed from the force for discreditable conduct without notice."

Pc Blount was regularly the face of the police crackdown on drink-drivers in the West Midlands over recent years.

In the 2006 festive period, he said: "Our message is drink drive today – get banned tomorrow."



Pc Chris Blount was pulled over by officers and found to be over the limit

Homes move for office block

A LANDMARK office block in Dudley town centre which has been empty for years will be given a new lease of life under plans to convert it into homes.

Falcon House, in The Minories, in the town centre has been left abandoned since the owner opted to occupy a different site. But fresh plans have now emerged to convert the 1960s office block into accommodation.

Flats will be created at the building but further details surrounding the proposals have yet to be revealed.

Initial plans requesting a change of use have been lodged with Dudley Council.

Falcon House overlooks public car parks off Flood Street. Its prominent town centre location would likely make it a sought-after address.

The site had previously been earmarked for a huge £50 million regeneration plan featuring a supermarket, restaurants, shops and houses, but developers eventually chose Cavendish House as their preferred option.

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How Green Shoots £1m is real Plus for business

MORE than £1 million has been handed out to businesses creating 123 jobs thanks to grants from the Express & Star.

Nineteen companies have benefited from the Green Shoots Plus scheme run in conjunction with the University of Wolverhampton.

A further £1.2m is in the process of being agreed and £2m is still up for grabs. So far 42 jobs have been protected, supporting £3.34m of private sector investment.

MPs have heralded the scheme and urged more small to medium-sized companies to submit bids.

Wolverhampton North East MP Emma Reynolds said: "I would encourage all small and medium-sized businesses to apply for this pot of money so they can invest in their industries and create new jobs."

Radical

"The fund has already been successful in creating more than 100 jobs and is a shot in the arm for the local economy."

South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson said: "What is so great about this scheme is that it is a partnership between Britain's biggest-selling regional newspaper the Express & Star and an academic institution delivering on the ground and making a difference for lots of people."

"This is a radical approach to handing out government grants and it must be commended because it is working so well and improving the local economy."

Companies to benefit include Food Trade International in Netherton who were awarded a grant of £150,000 which will create around 13 new jobs and protect a further three by purchasing new machinery and equipment the amount of work it can handle.



With the cheque, from left, Green Shoots fund board chairman professor Ian Oakes, Express and Star editor Keith Harrison, and the University's Business Solutions Centre manager Gary Dimmock, with board members

Express & Star editor Keith Harrison said: "It is great to see Green Shoots Plus making a real difference for our businesses here in the Black Country and Staffordshire and beyond."

"Small and medium-sized businesses are the backbone of the economy and many of them are in need of a helping hand to reach their full potential, create new jobs, and make a more prosperous society."

Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Ian Oakes said: "We are delighted to act as the conduit to allocate this government funding into the region for small companies to become competitive and grow and create jobs."

Applicants can seek a grant worth between £10,000 and £150,000 to cover up to 30 per cent of the costs of their plans for job creation and expansion.

The project, administered by the University of Wolverhampton and overseen by a panel of expert business leaders, uses money from the Government's Regional Growth Fund.

Green Shoots Plus aims to create and safeguard more than 370 jobs at small and medium sized enterprises across the Black Country, Stafford, South Staffordshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, and Herefordshire.

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Auster Alpha in front of the Maintenance Hangar at Pendeford



Wolverhampton Aero Club Piper Cherokee at Deauville



John Rushton under an Auster before departure in 1966 'looking for a shilling'



Peter Dunham, John Rushton, Doug Parsons, Colin Johnson in front of the Cherokee



M Carter, D Wombwell, J Rushton, T Docherty who were in Deauville in 1965

When aero rally was also a top-flight feast

IN 1965 and 1966 Wolverhampton Aero Club, based at Wolverhampton Airport Pendeford, took part in the Royal Aero Club Rally to Deauville, Normandy.

Club members in assorted aircraft flew over and joined light aircraft from all over Great Britain, in a tradition which began in the 1930s.

For less than £10 expenses members could enjoy a weekend at the Royal Deauville Hotel at the invitation of the owner M. Lucienne Barriere.

Varied

The Royal Aero Club Deauville Rally usually involved more than 100 light aircraft and those taking part from Pendeford varied from wartime Tiger Moth biplanes, to thoroughly modern Piper Cherokee four seaters.

The rally was always in the heart of the summer, 1966 being on the weekend of June 4-5, so once in Normandy visitors took full advantage of the local golf courses, tennis courts, horse riding and beaches.

Meals in the Restaurant des Ambassadeurs in the hotel were sumptuous. The five-course

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

dinner in 1966 was Melon de Provence, Cream of Tomato soup, Supreme de Turbot Cambaceres, Cotelettes de Veau Pojarski and Peches Melba, followed by toasts to the Queen and the President of France, then Charles de Gaulle.

Rare

In the days when package holidays to the Continent were uncommon, hiring an aircraft and popping over for a weekend at a fine resort in France was a rare experience, yet the annual Deauville Rallies were always oversubscribed.

Taking off in the shadow of Courtauld's tall 'Three Sisters' chimney stacks, and flying round the smoke of the Black Country and Birmingham, to land in sunny Normandy only three hours later was a rare treat.

And those on the 1966 rally probably didn't realise then just how rare it was then, with the closure of Pendeford Airport only five years away.



J Rushton, Miss C Groom, Bob Offwood, M Carter being shown the route by A S Harper in front of his Tiger Moth

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Arctic Convoys veteran dies, 95

A SECOND World War veteran who served in the Arctic convoys and was awarded a Russian Ushakov medal has died at the age of 95.

Duncan Christison, who lived in Wollaston, received the prestigious honour in 2014.

Originally from Sunderland, he died on February 14.

At the age of 16, he joined the Royal Navy at HMS Ganges, in Ipswich, going on to join HMS Birmingham before the war.

He served in Gibraltar, Malta, Egypt, Singapore, Hong Kong, China, the Antarctic, Russia and Norway.

Soviets

He was due to finish and go home when the Second World War was declared. Mr Christison was relocated to the South Atlantic Fleet, one of the sailors who helped keep the Soviets supplied in their war against the Nazis, in a mission Winston Churchill described as

‘the worst journey in the world’.

He was married to Jess, who died six months short of their 70th wedding anniversary in February 2014. He was one of 18 veterans from across the Black Country to be awarded the Medal of Ushakov by Russian dignitaries in that year.

He also received The Atlantic, Arctic, Africa, Italian, 1939 to 1945 star, the Malta George Cross 50th Anniversary Medal, Defence, War, long service and good conduct medals.

He is survived by a son, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Grandson, Keith Wood, aged 43, said: “We should celebrate men like my grandfather and what he stood for, he lived an incredible life.”

Mr Christison was a regular at Stourbridge Royal British Legion. His funeral is on March 11 at Stourbridge Crematorium at 1.30pm.



Duncan Christison, of Wollaston, received the Ushakov medal for serving on the Arctic convoys that kept Russia supplied during the Second World War

Total of 38 jobs lost – 50 more under threat

AN HISTORIC Black Country boiler company has collapsed into administration, wiping out the jobs of its 38-strong workforce.

It comes just 18 months after Robey Boilers Supplies and Services was saved from a previous administration in a buy-out by its own management.

Meanwhile a Cradley Heath-based company, which supplies security and surveillance systems to more than 4,000 commercial sites, is planning to shed more than 50 jobs. Defence Security Systems at Sapcote Trading Estate, Powke Lane, currently employs 98.

In 2014 bosses at the former Robey Wellman business, now Robey Boilers Supplies and Services, put together a deal to buy the company, saving 52 jobs at the Newfield Road factory.

But last week administrators from Birmingham firm Smith Cooper were called in by directors as the company struggled amid a fresh crisis.

The reasons for the latest collapse are unclear, but Richard Tonks, of Smith Cooper, said the firm had been appointed as administrators on Tuesday and had immediately shut the business down, making all its 38 employees redundant.

Documents filed at Companies House show the company had changed its name twice in August last year, most recently to Robey Boilers Supplies and Services.

It designed, made and maintained boilers and furnace equipment for a wide range of businesses and NHS trusts.

The company has been based at the Oldbury site for more than 150 years, tracing its roots all the way back to 1840 and the Dudley iron boat and boilermaking firm of Danks of Netherton.

Corporate services director at Defence Security Systems, Clare Stewart, said that an official collective consultation process had begun over redundancies.

“There are 92 people at risk with the potential to make 54 redundancies,” she explained.

Defence Security Systems, which was founded in 1983, moved to its present home from Rounds Green Road, Oldbury, more than a year ago.

Mrs Stewart said she was not prepared to go into the reasons for making the redundancies at the non-union business. The company, which also has more than 5,000 domestic customers, has invited voluntary redundancies.

Dementia patient was threatened by carer

“YOU don’t want to worry, you just hope the people who end up in that profession do it for the right reasons.”

These are the words of a family of a dementia patient who suffered at the hands of a carer at a West Bromwich care home.

Pauline Demaurie was found guilty of ill treating 87-year-old Edward Bridge at Lyndon Hall Care Home in West Bromwich after secret camera footage was passed to police by relatives. The camera had been hidden in Mr Bridge’s room by his daughter, concerned about bruises on his body.

During sentencing, Judge Kristine Montgomery said care homes were ‘places of refuge and safety’ where families should be able to feel loved ones were protected.

Pinch

Footage showed Demaurie, aged 40, of California Road, Tividale, aiming blows towards Mr Edwards and threatening to pinch him.

Judge Montgomery said her actions were ‘grossly inappropriate’.

Mr Bridge suffered with Paget’s disease which meant he felt pain at the slightest touch. He was heard crying out in pain on the footage.

His grandson Steven Lloyd-Warren said the family felt let down by what hap-



Pauline Demaurie

pened at the care home. He said: “You do have a trust in care homes. You don’t want to worry, you just hope the people who end up in that profession do it for the right reasons and care.”

Demaurie was ordered to complete 100 hours of unpaid work.

Former steelworker Mr Bridge, who was originally from Northern Ireland but lived in Great Barr for most of his life, has since died.

US theme for choir

A MALE voice choir will raise the roof this weekend to help send Girl Guides on a trip to America.

Cradley Heath Male Voice Choir is performing for Netherton District Girl Guide Rangers on Saturday, from 7.30pm, at The Salvation Army Citadel, in Meredith Street, Cradley Heath, from 7.30pm. Proceeds from the concert will go towards a trip to New York and Florida.

Tickets cost £5 on the door or buy in advance from Fiona Lees on 07860644981 or David Perry on (01384) 355559.

The concert will have an American theme to fit with the Rangers’ trip later in the year.

Other fundraising events include a folk music night at Trinity Methodist Church, in Church Road on March 21.

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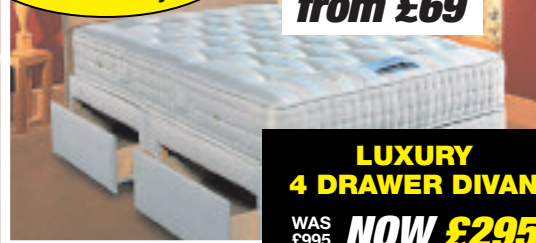
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Glory for Roary as Ellie's pet gets national award

PUPILS at an education centre in Sandwell are preparing to become space biologists and embark on a voyage of discovery by growing seeds that have been in space.

Whiteheath Education Centre on Hawes Lane, Rowley Regis, will be one of up to 10,000 schools to receive a packet of 100 seeds from space, which have been aboard the International Space Station (ISS). They will then grow them alongside seeds that haven't been to space and measure the differences. The pupils won't know which seed packet contains which seeds until the results have been collected.

Rocket seeds were flown to the ISS as part of an educational project launched by the Royal Horticultural Society Campaign for School Gardening and the UK Space Agency.

Talented folk can audition

A SERIES of events are taking place at Blackheath library in March and April.

Show organisers of Shape Your Talent are looking for budding performers in auditions being held on March 19, taking place between 12 and 3pm. Tickets cost £2.

Children's activities are taking place over Easter, where youngsters can create Easter cards and take part in an egg hunt.

Call Blackheath Library 0121 559 1884.

A TEENAGER who was battling anorexia when her parents bought her two rabbits to help her through her struggles has seen one of her pets pick up a national award.

Three-year-old Roary was nominated by owner Ellie Taylor, aged 18, from Rowley Regis, for supporting her through a family bereavement, issues at school and also her battle with an eating disorder.

By David Callaghan

Roary is the latest recipient of a devotion award from veterinary charity PDSA, for helping his owner through a tough time in her life.

Ellie's mum Joanne decided to get two rabbits, Roary and Tiger, in the hope that having responsibility for their care would help her daughter. Tiger died in 2012.

Roary has been awarded a PDSA Commendation for his devotion to Ellie, who said: "In 2011 I lost my granddad suddenly. I was also having problems at school and as a result I wasn't able to cope with things."

"I became ill with an eating disorder, anorexia, and had to come out of school. I was getting professional help for my illness, but still felt there was something missing in my life. Because I couldn't go to school, I

spent every day with Roary and Tiger. They helped ease my pain and slowly I began to feel like myself again.

"It's amazing that animals can make you feel like this. Roary in particular has changed my life. He's my best friend. Without him I don't think I'd be the person I am today."

"I am so proud of Roary and I am thrilled that this award highlights how small pets can make a big difference to people's lives."

Ian Fleming, PDSA's senior vet at the charity's Pet Hospital in Oldbury, the Marion and Christina Ionescu Centre of Surgical Excellence, presented Roary with his certificate at a special presentation. He said: "At PDSA we understand the strength and power of the bond between a pet, be it big or small, and their owner."



Three-year-old Roary the rabbit was nominated by owner Ellie Taylor for supporting her through a difficult time

Breakfast club gets £500 boost

A SCHOOL in Rowley Regis has received a £500 boost from cereal maker Kellogg's.

Whiteheath Education Centre was handed the cash by the company after completing an online breakfast club training programme.

The course provides information on the benefits of breakfast clubs and healthy eating, as well as offering advice on planning, funding and marketing the club.

Headteacher Rowena Challoner said: "This funding is fantastic and will enable us to continue providing a daily healthy breakfast for all pupils. We will also be able to purchase new equipment which will enhance the creativity of the breakfast club team."

Kellogg's has been supporting breakfast clubs for 16 years.

Focus on work rights

AN award-winning author will talk about the challenges and opportunities women face at work.

Guardian columnist Polly Toynbe will give the 2016 Mary Macarthur lecture at Blackheath Coronation Club on Friday, March 8. It is organised by the Midlands Trade Union Congress, as part of its Chainmakers Festival.

For more information call Michelle Kesterton on 0121 236 4454 or email mkesterton@tuc.org.uk.

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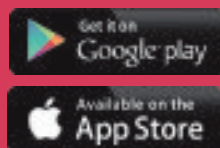


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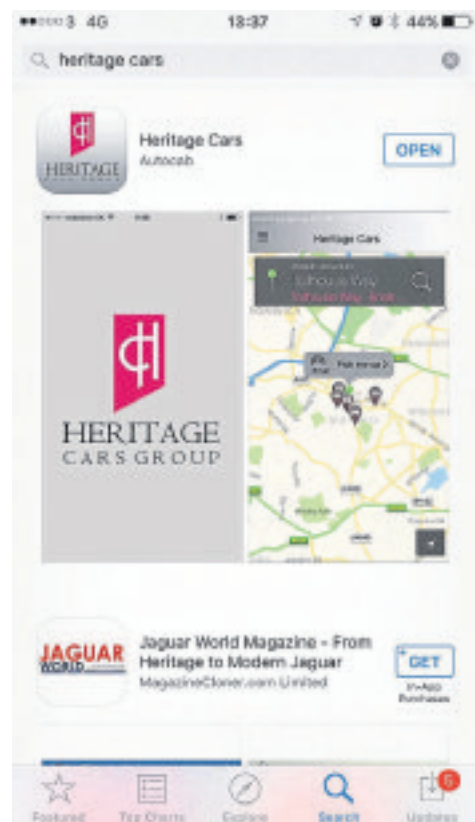
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Closing date 11th March 2016

To spend with an advertiser who has appeared on this page

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FOR ONE WEEK ONLY!

- Where is your local music shop?
- Who is based at Unit 21, Forge Trading Estate?
- Whose telephone number ends in 4161?
- Which client is based at B63 3AR?

Send your entries to Chris Smith, Advertising Dept, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Mr/Mrs/Miss First Name Surname
Address
Postcode Tel No. Email

I have read the rules and agree to abide by them. Signature

I would like to spend my prize money with

Rules: Entrants must be 16 or over. Closing date for entries is 11th March 2016. The winner will be notified by post. The first correct entry opened after the closing date will receive the prize. There is no cash alternative to the prize. The prize will be issued in cheque form made payable to the advertiser as chosen by the winner. Once issued the cheque cannot be altered and must be cashed within two months of receipt. Employees or their immediate relatives of the MNA group of companies may NOT enter. The Editor's decision is final. The winner must be prepared to take part in any publicity.

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Mother's DAY COMPETITION

WIN! £25

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FOR ONE WEEK ONLY!

Closing date 11th March 2016

1. Where can you go on Mother's Day for a Curry?
2. What are the March fragrances of the month at Something Special?
3. How much are the jugs of flowers at Rosies & Ribbons?
4. Which advertiser has good quality items at affordable prices?
5. Which hairdresser is offering a special on hair extensions?
6. Even though they may be closed, where can you still order flowers?
7. Which advertiser supplies colourful hanging baskets for £18?

Send your entries to Mark Moore (11/3/16) Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Mr/Mrs/Miss First Name Surname

Address

Postcode Tel No. Email

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By John Godber and Jane Thornton

The shakers lure you in ... the bouncers throw you out!

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Mozalicious

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Look who's Poppins in

Interview – Page 21



Thriller Live

See Page 21



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27 MAY • CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW
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4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD Mackays/Garve Hotel
• Includes Scotrail train to Kyle of Lochalsh, Strathspey Steam Railway and visits to Loch Ness & Inverness

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2 DAYS **£119.95**
OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD
• Admission included plus visits to Science & Natural History Museums

SAT 26 MAR, 16 APR, 28 MAY, 4, 11, 25 JUN, 23 JUL, 6, 13, 20 AUG

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OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD
• Admission included & free time in London

SAT 14 MAY, 16 JUL, 10 SEP

LIVERPOOL BEATLES TOUR MERSEY CRUISE & CHESTER

2 DAYS **£79.95**
OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD
• Includes River Explorer Cruise & Beatles Tour

SAT 19 MAR, 23 APR, 28 MAY, 18 JUN, 9, 30 JUL

POLAR BEARS, PENGUINS & KINGDOM OF ICE

2 DAYS **£99.95**
OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD
• Includes admission to Yorkshire Wildlife Park, home of UK's only Polar Bears & The Deep Kingdom of Ice!

SAT 26 MAR, 21 MAY, 16 JUL, 6 AUG, 3 SEP

BOURNEMOUTH & GUERNSEY CRUISE

5 DAYS FROM **£199.95**
4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD Carrington House Hotel
• Includes fantastic day trip to Guernsey

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5 DAYS MON 30 MAY, 1, 15 AUG, 24 OCT

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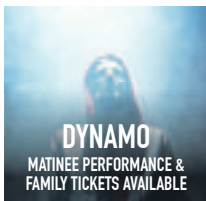
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19 Mar 2016



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26 Apr 2016



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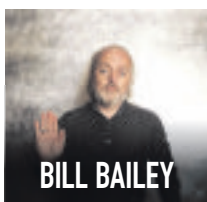
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17 - 20 Mar 2016



18 - 20 Mar 2016

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Of Mice And Men



Tuesday - March 12
Grand Theatre, W'ton

The acclaimed production by director Roxana Silbert of John Steinbeck's drama set during America's Great Depression, returns to the region after a successful recent run in Birmingham. Visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk

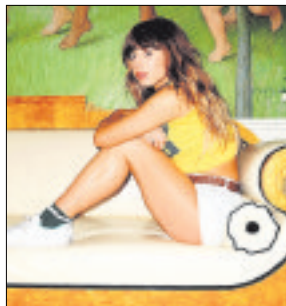
Hetty Feather



Tuesday - March 12
The Rep, B'ham

The Olivier Award-nominated play based on Jacqueline Wilson's children's novel about the adventures of a Victorian founding arrives at the Rep after a run in London's West End. Visit www.birmingham-rep.co.uk

Foxes



Tonight (Thursday), 7pm
O2 Institute, B'ham

Riding the wave of success that came from anthemic belter Better Love, Southampton-born Foxes - AKA Louisa Rose Allen - blazes a trail for pop music and fashion. Visit o2institutebirmingham.co.uk

Rudimental



Monday, 7pm
O2 Academy, B'ham

Following the chart-topping success of second album We The Generation, the Hackney outfit famous for their hit collaborations visit as part of a nine-date UK tour. Visit www.academymusicgroup.com

POP & ROCK

Jamie Woon

Sat at 6pm - 10pm,
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Call 0121 643 0428

Sleeping With Sirens

Sat at 6pm, £18.50
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

The Coral

Thu at 7pm,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

The Drifters

Fri at 7.30pm, £26
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

The Stones

Fri at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre,
Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

ReGenesis: Genesis Tribute

Mon at 8.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel,
Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Blockheads

Fri at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2,
Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Theory Of A Deadman

Fri at 6pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Lady Leshurr: Queen Of The Scene Tour

Sun at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

The Catapult Club: The New Blacks

Fri at 6pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Johnny Hates Jazz

Sun at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2,
Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Reckless Love

Sat at 7pm,
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms,
WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Ady Suleiman

Sun at 7pm,
Hare & Hounds,
Kings Heath, Birmingham,
B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Matt Woosey (cancelled)

Tue at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2,
Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Fragile: Yes Tribute

Thu at 8.30pm,
The Robin 2,
Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Dan Reed Network

Wed at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2,
Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Rudimental

Mon at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Fleshgod Apocalypse @ The Underworld Camden

Thu at 7pm,
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

JAZZ & BLUES

Jazz House

Tue at 5.30pm - 7.30pm,
Light House, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1HT.
Call 01902 716055

Room For The Blues

Sunday at 4pm
Dog & Doublet,
Wolverhampton
WV1 1RD.
Call 01902 423805

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Martin Simpson

Mon at 8pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Rachel Newton

Tue at 7.30pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Keston Cobblers Club

Wed at 7pm - 11pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Fairport Convention

Sun at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Town Hall,
B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Rising Stars - Musica Callada/ Music Of Silence

Mon at 6pm - 9.30pm, £10
Birmingham Town Hall,
B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Brentano Quartet

Tue at 7.30pm - 10pm,
£9.50 - £28
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Symphony Of A Thousand

Sun at 3pm,
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Celebration Of Music

Fri at 7pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Peter Donohoe Plays Shostakovich

Wed at 2.30pm - 4.30pm,
Birmingham Town Hall,
B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

CBSO 2015-16 - Shostakovich's Fifteenth

Wed at 7.30pm, £12.50 - £45
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

CBSO 2015-16 - Poulenc's Gloria

Sat at 7pm, £12.50 - £45
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

Horrible Histories: Groovy Greeks

Fri at 10.30am, Sat at 2.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Horrible Histories: Incredible Invaders

Fri at 7pm, Sat at 10.30am,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Baldwin The Abdication

Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
7.30pm,
The Rose Theatre,
Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.
Call 01562 743745

42nd Street

Thu at 7.30pm,
The Rose Theatre,
Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.
Call 01562 743745

Thriller Live

Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm,
Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Alice In Wonderland

Thu at 8pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Of Mice And Men

Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm,
7.30pm, Thu at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
£8.50 - £35
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Welsh National Opera: The Marriage Of Figaro

Sat at 7pm, £16.50 - £50
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

The Tailor Of Inverness

Fri at 8pm, Sat at 8pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Count Duckula Live: The Jewels Of Duckula

Sat at 2pm, £11.95 - £58.40
Prince Of Wales Centre,
Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

The 39 Steps

Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2pm,
7.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

The Sensational 60s Experience

Sat at 7.30pm, £20 - £25
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Hetty Feather

Tue at 7pm, Wed at 10.30am,
7pm, Thu at 2.30pm, 7pm,
£14 - £24
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Mary Poppins

Wed at 2pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm,
7.30pm,
£25.55 - £30.60
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Welsh National Opera: The Barber Of Seville

Fri at 7.15pm, £16.50 - £50
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

The Russian State Ballet And Opera House: Madame Butterfly

Fri at 7.30pm - 9.30pm,
Theatre Severn,
Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

COMEDY

Jethro: 40 Years The Joker

Wed at 7.30pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Stuart Goldsmith: An Hour

Fri at 8pm,
The Glee Club,
Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

The Best In Live Stand-up Comedy

Fri at 7pm, Sat at 7pm,
The Glee Club,
Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Adam Hills: Clown Heart

Sat at 8pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Tommy Tiernan: Out Of The Whirlwind

Sun at 6.45pm - 11pm,
The Glee Club,
Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

TALKS

James Martin: Plates, Mates And Automobiles

Thu at 7.30pm,
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

An Evening With Liverpool Legends

Fri at 6pm - 10pm,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

OTHER EVENTS

Crufts and Best In Show 2016

Thu at 8.15am - 6.30pm
Genting Arena,
Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

Barber Book Club: The Way To Paradise By Mario Vargas Llosa

Tue at 2pm - 3pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham,
B15 2TS. Call 0121 414 7333

Contemporary Craft Markets

Sun at 11am, Free
mac, Cannon Hill Road,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Practical Classic Restoration And Classic Car Show

Sat at 9am - 6pm, Sun at 9.30am - 5pm,
The NEC Birmingham,
B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

The National Wedding Show

Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 6pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm,
The NEC Birmingham,
B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

CLUBBING

Drum & Bass Awards 2016

Sat - Sun at 9pm - 6am,
Gatecrasher Birmingham,
B15 1DA. Call 0121 633 1520

The Burlesque Ball UK Tour

Sat at 8.30pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Zizi a practically perfect Poppins

IT'S her dream job. Zizi Strallen grew up watching Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke star in the iconic 1964 movie version of Mary Poppins. It transported her to another world – and she didn't ever imagine she'd one day land that role.

"I watched the film and read the book. I became completely obsessed by it. And then when somebody like Cameron Mackintosh says 'do you want to do this?' you just go."

The spectacular travelling production will have a six-week run at Birmingham's Hippodrome from Wednesday (March 9), playing to almost 100,000 people. Zizi says it's as much fun for her as it is for the sell-out audiences.

"We are so well looked after here and the company is absolutely amazing. It's not just about the people on stage, it's also the people who help me fly every night."

"The work that goes into this production is absolutely immense. We change venues and think: 'How on earth are they going to fit all of this kit into this theatre?' But they do. It never fails to impress."

Zizi is an accomplished dancer and has enjoyed working with Matthew Bourne, who has brought numerous ballets to Birmingham.

Sisters

Theatre is in her genes. Both her parents appeared in Cats, her aunt is Bonnie Langford and her two elder sisters are actresses Summer and Scarlett Strallen – Scarlett played Mary Poppins in London and on Broadway.

When Zizi isn't tripping the light fantastic or making magic as Mary Poppins, she writes her own scripts.

"It's a hobby, when I have time. I write comedy sketches. Once I've done everything I can do on stage, I would love to write professionally."

"I kind of started it because I was a big eavesdropper when I was out having coffee in London. I write scripts that include lots of the funny stuff that I've overheard. People don't realise I'm listening and writing it all down."

She says Mary Poppins has lots of laugh-out-loud lines. "I really enjoyed finding the comedy and the wit in the script. Some of Mary's lines are so witty and cheeky."



Sister act – rising star Zizi Strallen is following her sibling Summer's steps as Mary Poppins on stage photo: Matt Crockett

Cleo atcha in Thriller Live

THE touring version of West End hit Thriller Live is coming to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre for a six-day run from Monday.

The concert-style tribute to the genius of Michael Jackson has become a global phenomenon, taking 150 million dollars at the box office – half of that from its seven-year London run and UK tours.

Later this year the 2,901st performance of the show at the Lyric Theatre will see Thriller Live overtake Evita to become the 17th longest running West End musical.

Producer Paul Walden said: "This is proof positive that the music of Michael Jackson is still one of the hottest tickets on the planet. We are privileged to continue his musical legacy in Thriller Live, and to have taken it to theatres, concert halls and arenas in 32 countries around the world."

"But we are certainly not resting on our laurels – this brand new version of the show has four new songs, a new opening, new production elements including new video, new costumes and special effects."

The arrival of the show in Brum will also mark a homecoming for one of its current stars, Birmingham-born Cleo Higgins. She is the former lead singer of sibling pop trio Cleopatra, who enjoyed a hit with Cleopatra's Theme (from debut album Comin' Atcha!) alongside her sisters Yonah and Zainam in 1998.

Cleo reached the semi-finals of The Voice UK in 2013, choosing Will.i.am as coach after all four turned in the blind audition. Now she celebrates the music of Michael Jackson.



It's Blockheads and touring Turin Brakes

KEY gigs include a concert by the late Ian Dury's band The Blockheads, now fronted by Derek 'The Draw' Hussey, at Bilston's Robin 2 venue tomorrow (Fri).

The line up includes Chaz Jankel, Norman Watt-Roy and Mick Gallagher, so expect the distinctive blend of music hall and funk with hits such as Hit Me With Your Rhythm Stick. Support from Tipton's The Tramways.

Turin Brakes, who recently released their seventh studio album, Lost Property, are in concert at Birmingham's Glee Club, at Birmingham's Arcadian Centre, on Tuesday. Funky US rock band Dan Reed Network play the Robin 2 on Wednesday.

Painful memories as son plays his father

ACTOR Matthew Zajac plays his own father in The Tailor Of Inverness, which explores the elderly Pole's memories of his horrific experiences during the Second World War, that led him to leave Poland for Scotland.

Written by Zajac, this story has added poignancy given the current refugee crisis. It is presented at Birmingham Repertory Theatre venue The Door, in the Centenary Square complex, from tonight (Thu) to Saturday.

London Classic Theatre stage Harold Pinter's The Birthday Party at Wolverhampton University's Arena Theatre, in Wulfruna Street, tomorrow and Saturday.

X Factor winner to star in Grand panto

TICKETS are already on sale for this year's pantomime at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Aladdin, with star singer Joe McElerry in the title role.

The X Factor winner will be joined by TV presenter, former Strictly and Emmerdale star Lisa Riley as the Slave of the Ring in the show at the Lichfield Street theatre from December 10 to January 22.

Also joining the panto line up is Black Country comedy character Doreen, as the laziest Empress that China has ever seen. Work shy Doreen Tipton, played by actress Gill Jordan, became an internet sensation and has featured in her own movie.

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CHOICE



Lee Mead

Casualty (BBC1, 9pm)
Part two of two. In the aftermath of the incident that saw agency nurse Diana receive a shock from a defibrillator, Lofty must decide how to explain what occurred in the Emergency Department's official statement. Dylan tells him clarify it was an accident, but Lofty must decide whether he himself should carry the burden. Meanwhile, Cal falls while looking after Emilie, and the pair are admitted to the ED, forcing Ethan to face his birth-mother for the first time. When it becomes clear that Emilie has pneumonia, and doesn't have long to live, Ethan and Cal must make a life-changing decision together. Medical drama, starring Lee Mead.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry's Foolproof Cooking. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Cycling. (R) **2.00** Live Davis Cup Tennis. Great Britain v Japan. **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** Dynamo: Magician Impossible. **5.50** BBC News.
6.00 Regional Programme.
6.10 The Getaway Car. Dermot O'Leary hosts as another five duos arrive in the South African countryside to put their nerves, driving and communication skills, and ultimately their relationships to the test. This time, sisters Jodie and Aimi take to the wheel of "Little Miss Daisy". Hazard Highway's flowery VW Golf, and "rock gods in the making" Binny and Neil from Brighton also take to the track. Ex-HGV driver Dave and his partner Paula arrive from the Outer Hebrides, and lifelong pals Pete and Richard from South Yorkshire put their friendship to the test on the course. Plus, London-based Thai kickboxing duo Talibah and Ami begin to wonder whether they have made the right choice as Talibah, who only passed her driving test just over a year ago, settles into the driver's seat.
7.00 The Voice UK. The would-be stars enter the second and final round of the Battle phase, in which the remaining artists from each team must take to the stage to secure their place in the Knockouts. As Paloma Faith, Boy George, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson seek to reduce the numbers in their respective groups down to eight singers each, the contestants must prepare themselves for another flurry of vocal show-downs, with their own superstar coaches deciding which of them will be bowing out of the competition early.
9.00 Casualty. Part two of two. Lofty must make a statement about the defibrillator incident, and Ethan faces his birth-mother for the first time when she and Cal are admitted to the ED.
9.50 The National Lottery Live. Gaby Roslin presents.
10.00 BBC News; Weather.
10.20 Match of the Day.
11.50 Film: The Recruit. (2003)
1.40 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Film: After Tonight. (1933) **7.15 Film: The Quatermass Xperiment.** (1955) **8.35 Film: Dean Spanley.** (2008)
10.10 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.10** Natural World. (R) **12.00** Rick Stein's India. (R) **1.00** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **1.30** Alfred Hitchcock: Talking Pictures. (R) **2.05 Film: Notorious.** (1946) Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, starring Cary Grant. **3.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.30** Live Davis Cup Tennis. Great Britain v Japan. **5.30** Flog It! (R) **6.00 Gardeners' World.** Horticultural ideas and advice. (R)
6.30 Back in Time for the Weekend. The Ashby-Hawkins family enters the 1990s, a decade where new technology starts to dominate their leisure time. Twelve year-old Seth finally gets his hands on a Game Boy and games console, while the arrival of the internet and a mobile phone marks the start of how many spend their spare time now. Steph and Rob try out line-dancing, and fitness star Mr Motivator puts them through their paces. Tommy Walsh and Linda Barker also turn up to help the family give the house and garden a 90s makeover. (R)
7.30 Queen Victoria's Children. The second episode focuses on the monarch's relationship with her daughters, revealing how she clung to and bullied the princesses, as well as arranging who they should marry. (R)
8.30 Dad's Army. James buys black-market pigeons from wheeler-dealer Walker – but is horrified to discover the birds were taken from Trafalgar Square. Comedy, starring Clive Dunn and James Beck. (R)
9.00 Stag. Johnnies' stag party is besieged in the home of the sinister gamekeeper, until Christoph, a suspiciously helpful game-crasher, arrives and offers to lead everyone to safety.
10.00 Film: Dom Hemingway. (2013) Premiere. A safe cracker released from prison goes to the South of France to collect a debt and reconnect with his daughter. Comedy crime drama, starring Jude Law and Emilia Clarke.
11.30 Line of Duty. The return of the crime thriller about a police anti-corruption unit. DI Lindsay Denton comes under suspicion after a police convoy is ambushed. (R)
12.30 Line of Duty. (R) **1.30 Film: Lebanon.** (2009) **2.55** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knockor Street. **6.15** Bottom Knockor Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Signed Stories. (R) **6.55** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Looped. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Neds & Monsters. **8.30** Scrambled!: Jessie. **9.05** Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25** Murder. She Wrote. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.15** ITV News; Weather. **12.24** Regional Programme. **12.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.30** Judge Rinder. (R) **2.30** Tipping Point. (R) **3.35** Film: The Spy Who Loved Me. (1977) James Bond spy adventure, starring Roger Moore.
6.00 Regional Programme; Weather. **6.10** ITV News; Weather.
6.30 **New You've Been Framed!** More comical mishaps.
7.00 **Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** Hollywood actress Kate Hudson joins the entertainment duo as this week's Guest Announcer, and Bear Grylls receives the surprise of his life when Ant and Dec go Undercover – in total darkness. Stephen Mulhern presides over Ant vs Dec, in which the pair must sing for their lives, and the plot thickens in the second instalment of Who Shot Simon Cowell?, with David Walliams becoming the latest suspect. Plus, Brit Award-winning singer Jess Glynne takes part in the End of the Show Show, and another lucky audience member is selected to play Win the Ads.
8.30 **Take Me Out.** A musical theatre performer from Mansfield, a City trader, a Blackpool car salesman and an account executive from Milton Keynes enter the "love lift". Last in the series.
10.00 **The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host is joined in the studio by Richard Gere, Roisin Conaty, Jack Black and Motown founder Berry Gordy, who introduces a performance by the cast of Motown the Musical.
11.00 **ITV News; Weather.**
11.20 **Film: Never Say Never Again.** (1983) Action adventure, with Sean Connery.
1.35 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** Freeride World Tour. **7.30** The Grid. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Superhumans Show. **11.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Doncaster and Newbury. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.05 **Come Dine with Me.** It is the final night in Manchester and glamorous gossip Maria is serving her twist on Asian cuisine, which manages to impress daddy's girl Sasha. (R)
6.35 **Channel 4 News.**
7.00 **Great Canal Journeys.** Timothy West and Prunella Scales travel along the Forth and Clyde Canal and the Union Canal in a coast-to-coast adventure from Edinburgh to Glasgow, taking in Scotland's highest aqueduct and longest canal tunnel, as well some striking examples of 21st-century engineering and monumental sculptures. Last in the series. (R)
8.00 **Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages.** The actress travels through the South Downs and the Weald of Sussex and Kent, reliving the Cuckfield Donkey Races and delving into the life of Rudeyard Kipling. Last in the series.
9.00 **Film: The Bourne Legacy.** (2012) The leaders of a secret government agency plan to eliminate several agents as part of a cover-up when they face having their dark secrets exposed. One of the assassins targeted is able to evade his fate and go on the run – but his escape is threatened by his dependence on drugs to boost his physical and mental capabilities. Spy thriller sequel, with Jeremy Renner, Rachel Weisz and Edward Norton.
11.40 **Film: Seven Psychopaths.** (2012) A writer turns to two crooks for advice about a script, but ends up in danger when they kidnap a gangster's dog. Comedy thriller, with Colin Farrell and Sam Rockwell.
1.40 Hollyoaks. (R) **3.30** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. (R) **4.45** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** The Fairly OddParents. **9.30** The Saturday Show Live. **11.30** Film: Star Trek: The Motion Picture. (1979) **2.00** Criminally Funny: Caught in the Act. (R) **3.00** Now That's Funny! (R) **4.00** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **5.00** Granmies Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R)
6.00 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Documentary series giving an insight into the world of debt collection. Kevin Stokes and Brian O'Shaughnessy try to collect a debt from a technology company in Middlesex – and with the director nowhere to be seen, the office manager does everything she can to prove the business is no longer trading. Stewart McCracken and Elmor Victor face a heartbreaking house repossession in Merseyside, where two landlords are forced to evict a tenant recovering from a brain tumour which has cost him his job and income. (R)
7.00 **World War II in Colour.** The war in the Pacific in the spring of 1943, when America went on the offensive against Japan, launching a two-pronged attack to drive their forces back. (R)
8.00 **The Gadget Show.** Jon Bentley tests a product intended to replace both a laptop and tablet, while in the US, Yve Xu visits CES, the world's biggest technology exhibition. (R)
8.55 **5 News Weekend.**
9.00 **The Championship: Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's matches, which include Burnley v Blackburn Rovers.
10.00 **Goal Rush: Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present a round-up of all the goals and talking points from League One and League Two, as well as a look at the latest league tables.
10.30 **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** A bikie gang member's mutilated body is found in a park, and Stabber fights to prove his partner's innocence when Benson is linked to the murder by DNA evidence. (R)
11.20 **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** (R)
12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** I Want That Wedding! (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Human Planet **8.00** Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures **9.00** Trapped **10.45** Doris Day: Virgin Territory **11.45** Songs Musicals **12.45** Sound of Cinema: The Music That Made the Movies **1.45** Top of the Pops: 1981 **2.25** Top of the Pops: 1981 **2.45** Doris Day: Virgin Territory **3.45** Close
ITV2
11.15 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **12.45** The Almost Impossible Gameshow **1.45** Catchphrase **2.25** Scorpion **3.20** Film: Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **5.10** Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) **7.10** Film: Hulk (2003) **10.00** Take Me Out – The Gossip **11.00** Family Guy **11.55** American Dad! **12.50** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **1.20** Ibiza Weekender **2.10** Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands **3.00** Teleshopping
ITV3
12.25 A Touch of Frost **2.30** Wycliffe **3.45** Jane Eyre **6.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** A Touch of Frost **12.10** Blue Murder **1.40** Doctor in the House **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
11.35 Pawn Stars **12.30** Live Darts: UK Open. Coverage of the second day at the Butlins Minehead Resort. **5.00** Storage Wars: Texas **6.00** Pawn Stars **7.00** Live Darts: UK Open. Further coverage of the second day at the Butlins Minehead Resort. **11.00** Film: The Hitcher (2007) **12.40** Hell on Wheels **1.35** Minder **2.30** Movie Now **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.00 How I Met Your Mother **12.00** The Jump **1.00** The Goldbergs **3.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: The Inbetweeners Movie (2011) **11.00** Tattoo Fixers **12.00** Gogglebox **2.10** Virtually Famous **2.50** Tattoo Fixers **3.45** How I Met Your Mother **4.30** Revenge
Film4
11.00 Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) **1.00** Leap Year (2010) **3.05** True Grit (1969) **5.40** Avatar (2009) A soldier uses a genetically engineered body to help an alien tribe fight off a corrupt mining corporation. James Cameron's sci-fi adventure, with Sam Worthington and Zoe Saldana. **9.00** Les Misérables (2012) A former prisoner pursued by a fanatical police inspector in post-revolutionary France is drawn into a political uprising. Musical, with Hugh Jackman and Russell Crowe. **12.05** Don't Be Afraid of the Dark (2010) **2.05** Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo (1999) **3.55** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Smoke Screen, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A TV reporter finds herself thrown into the midst of a murder investigation when she wakes up next to a dead body and cannot remember a thing about the night before. Fighting to prove her innocence, she must use all of her investigative skills to get to the bottom of the killing. Drama, with Jaime Pressly. (2010)

TUESDAY

Forget Me Not, BBC1, 11.45pm

A teenager about to graduate from high school has put a horrific incident in her childhood behind her. When her friends begin disappearing, she is forced to face up to her past misdeeds, as she discovers an angry spirit is seeking revenge on them for a crime they committed as children. Horror, starring Carly Schroeder and Cody Linley. (2009)

WEDNESDAY

Confessions of a Shopaholic, BBC1, 11.45pm

Aspiring fashion journalist Rebecca Bloomwood accepts a position writing for a financial magazine. As she sets the publishing world alight with her unique brand of consumer advice, Rebecca is forced to confront her own purchasing habits and begins to question whether rampant spending sprees are the way to true happiness. Comedy, starring Isla Fisher, Hugh Dancy, Krysten Ritter and Joan Cusack. (2009)



Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil, Friday, BBC2, 11.30pm

THURSDAY

The Mystery Cruise, Channel 5, 3.20pm

During a three-day murder-mystery game on board a cruise ship to promote the release of her bestselling mother's latest novel, a private investigator and her best friend suspect that a real killer may be on the loose. Thriller, starring Gail O'Grady. (2013)

FRIDAY

Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil, BBC2, 11.30pm

An antiquities dealer in a Deep South town kills his gay lover, claiming his actions were in self-defence. A journalist sent to write a feature on the party stays in town to cover the trial, and delves into the local underworld to discover what really happened. Fact-based drama, starring John Cusack. (1997)

A very different side of life awaits the stars

Take a gaggle of television personalities, drop them into a completely alien location stripped of all the comforts of modern life and make them fend for themselves.

No it's not I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here, Celebrity Big Brother or Bear Grylls: Mission Survive.

Instead, this social experiment, the first version of which first aired in 2009, is actually one of those examples of quality reality TV that uses pampered stars to full effect while raising awareness of a key social matter.

The premise of Famous, Rich and Homeless is quite simple: four Sports Relief volunteers agree to sleep rough on the streets of London to experience the harsh reality of homelessness in the UK.

Back in 2009, comedian Hardeep Singh Kohli, former tennis player Annabel Croft, ex-newspaper editor Rosie Boycott, Winston's Churchill's great nephew the Marquis of Blandford, and Coronation Street actor Bruce Jones all took part.

Now following in their footsteps are

comedian Nick Hancock, TV presenter Julia Bradbury, former snooker player Willie Thorne and celebrity cleaner Kim Woodburn.

Over two shows, the quartet all struggle with isolation, fear, the cold and wet, and the effort of day-to-day survival. For each volunteer the streets become a test of strength and self-reliance – and not everybody copes.

In addition, the famous faces also start to examine their own lives and their personal relationship to homelessness.

Thorne has gambled hundreds of thousands of pounds away during a 40-year gambling addiction and has recently gone bankrupt.

Meanwhile, Woodburn survived being homeless herself as a teenager and has strong opinions on how deserving of help – or not – the homeless are in the UK.

This social experiment, again led by John Bird, founder of The Big Issue, aims to expose the realities of the homeless problem in the UK.

The number of rough sleepers has gone up 55 per cent and the average

age of death for a homeless man is just 47 years old, 43 if you're a woman.

One in 10 of us will experience homelessness in some form during our lives, and it can happen to anyone – Halle Berry, Jim Carrey, Daniel Craig, Ella Fitzgerald, Jennifer Lopez, Hilary Swank, Charlie Chaplin and Harry Houdini are just a few of the global superstars who slept rough before making their showbiz millions.

Despite this show's worthy themes and legitimately jaw-dropping statistics about the number of people who sleep rough every night, many viewers will watch Famous, Rich and Homeless solely to see a group of celebrities taken out of their comfort zones.

However, 2009's experiment proved to be successful in raising awareness through a group of (mostly articulate) personalities who genuinely seemed to care about the subject matter.

Therefore, the show turned out to be effective and affecting – and arguably one of the best use of celebrities that television has seen for years.



Famous, Rich and Homeless, Wednesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Frontline Doctors: Winter Migrant Crisis, BBC1, 9pm

As trained humanitarian response medics, doctors Chris and Xand van Tulleken have worked in disaster zones across the world. However, the latest crisis is unfolding much closer to home, as Europe faces its largest migration since the Second World War. Now, Chris and Xand are learning more about the medical needs of those who have made the perilous journey from war-torn countries by visiting locations across Europe. The duo discovers that in addition to carrying the mental and physical scars of their homelands, the refugees face fresh problems in Europe. In Greece, the dangerous boat journeys mean that hypothermia and frostbite are prevalent, while in Calais, overcrowding has led to fears of disease.

TUESDAY

Happy Valley, BBC1, 9pm

Daniel suspects somebody at school might be responsible for Ryan's new-found interest in Tommy, and tries to explain that he wasn't really a dad to him, while, despite Sean protesting his innocence, Jodie and John receive permission to charge him with all of the murders. However, delight at the

developments is tempered when another body is found in the early hours, and Daryl wakes a stunned Alison in the middle of the night and confesses to murder, leading to dramatic scenes at the breakfast table.

WEDNESDAY

Dunblane: Our Story, BBC2, 9pm

Documentary commemorating the 20th anniversary of the firearms tragedy in Dunblane, near Stirling, in which a gunman shot dead 16 pupils and their teacher at a primary school. The film features testimony from a survivor, who was shot as a five year old and details her terrifying experience. It also includes an interview with the headmaster of the school at the time of the shootings, as well as contributions from family members of the survivors and the deceased, including two young women, who talk about sisters they never knew.

THURSDAY

The Secret History of My Family, BBC2, 8pm

The Gadbury sisters were three

pickpocketing siblings raised in 1830s Shoreditch, in the heart of London's criminal underworld. The first of a new documentary series on social mobility and social stasis examines how two of them were banished to England's 'thief colony'. However, as a twist on Who Do You Think You Are?, some

remarkable stories are discovered as we delve into their history. Among the ladies' Australian descendants are a couple of Supreme Court Judges and a Government Premier. As for the girl left in England, two of her descendants are a bin man and a window cleaner.

The remarkable story of the Gadbury girls, and subsequent branches of the family tree, are examined by their descendants.

FRIDAY

Crafts 2016, Channel 4, 7.30pm

New series.

Live from the NEC in Birmingham, Clare Balding hosts launches Channel 4's coverage of the 125th anniversary of the world's largest dog event, continued from More4. This edition features a lively debate on canine health and welfare, with Professor Noel Fitzpatrick, Kate Bevan and Nick Blayney, and a look at the benefits of microchipping before it becomes compulsory under UK law next month. Plus, Iwan Thomas tries his hand at dog agility, and judging comes from the Vulnerable Breed and Gundog group.

Land of Hope and Glory – British Country Life, BBC2, 9pm

For almost 120 years, Country Life magazine has been the property bible for anyone looking to buy a grand country house. Jane Treays spends a year visiting cottages, manor houses and castles through the eyes of the magazine - and seeing how people live in them. Properties range from a crumbling historic mansion in Oxfordshire and a glorious Scottish estate basking in its £13million refurbishment, to the inherited turrets of Picton Castle in south-west Wales, and the noisy environment of a huntsman's 18th-century kennels and cottage.



Happy Valley, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

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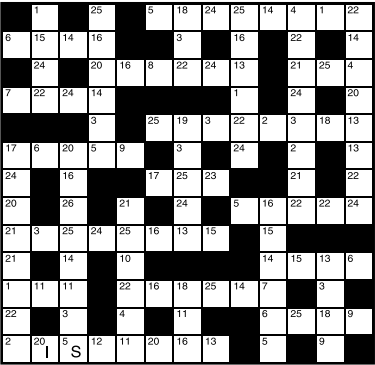
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
R H Q E L Y C M D Z S A B
I W O G U N J K X F P V T

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

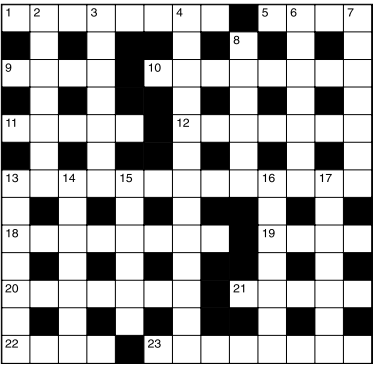
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. Neat and honest (8)
- 5. The boss has a lot of horses (4)
- 9. A singular occasion (4)
- 10. The return from the capital (8)
- 11. The ultimate in sporting entertainment (5)
- 12. Grave words (7)
- 13. Like a miner with time on his hands? (5,8)
- 18. The patient does little to make such treatment effective (4-4)
- 19. One may win it by a head (4)
- 20. Some terrible mishap results in a scar (7)
- 21. Make a false impression (5)
- 22. An engagement, or the girl to whom you may become engaged (4)
- 23. Many steps have been taken for the sake of it (8)

Down

- 2. One isn't shaken, though it may make one shake (7)
- 3. The usual hail-storm? (7)
- 4. Is he making an empty protest? (6-7)
- 6. Possibly pray when under the treatment (7)
- 7. Many felt irritated and abandoned (7)
- 8. Daniel is upset by a contradiction (6)
- 13. Sort of boulder lacking rich investments (7)
- 14. Drop of French perfume (7)
- 15. Reporter's comeback perhaps (6)
- 16. Exit to the open air? (7)
- 17. Flag officers? (7)



Quick Clues:

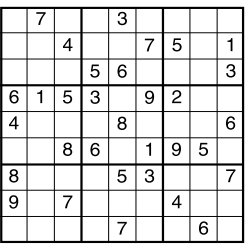
Across

- 1. Expunging (8)
- 5. Twirl (4)
- 9. An insect (4)
- 10. Impressive (8)
- 11. Tranquil (5)
- 12. Immediate (7)
- 13. Stupidity (13)
- 18. Thorough (8)
- 19. Pace (4)
- 20. Novels (7)
- 21. Corn (5)
- 22. Nightfall (4)
- 23. Be like (8)

Down

- 2. Rubbing out (7)
- 3. Utter (7)
- 4. Faint hope (7,6)
- 6. Archbishop (7)
- 7. Nullifies (7)
- 8. Osculates (6)
- 13. Jeered (7)
- 14. Observes (7)
- 15. Draw out (6)
- 16. Quack remedy (7)
- 17. Particular (7)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	8	1	7	3	4	2	9	6
4	7	6	5	9	2	1	8	3
2	3	9	6	8	1	5	7	4
1	6	4	2	5	9	8	3	7
7	5	2	8	6	3	9	4	1
3	9	8	1	4	7	6	2	5
6	4	5	3	2	8	7	1	9
9	2	7	4	1	5	3	6	8
8	1	3	9	7	6	4	5	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Bounty; 4 Prated; 9 Faces the music; 10 Earnest; 11 Nomad; 12 Ramps; 14 Scope; 18 Rings; 19 Records; 21 Private income; 22 Rushed; 23 Modest. Down: 1 Buffet; 2 Uncertainties; 3 Taste; 5 Romantic; 6 To some purpose; 7 Decode; 8 White; 13 Postage; 15 Proper; 16 Brief; 17 Aspect; 20 Canto. QUICK - Across: 1 Skilly; 4 Bridge; 9 Lackadaisical; 10 Strange; 11 Dumps; 12 Rebel; 14 Depot; 18 Trade; 19 Restive; 21 Animal spirits; 22 Denote; 23 Kennel. Down: 1 Splash; 2 Incarceration; 3 Learn; 5 Residue; 6 Decomposition; 7 Enlist; 8 Waver; 13 Elegant; 15 Strand; 16 Gross; 17 Vessel; 20 Shine.

Quiz

- 1. At which Oxford College did politician Roy Jenkins study?
- 2. Who became chairman of CND for the second time in 1987?
- 3. What nationality was painter El Lissitzky?
- 4. What was playwright Jean Baptiste Poquelin better known as?
- 5. Which British Labour politician was in the merchant navy from 1955-63?
- 6. Which composer's first film score was for Knight Without Armour in 1937?
- 7. What was the comic strip Peanuts originally called?
- 8. Who was Liberal MP for North Devon from 1959-79?
- 9. Whose first novel was Player Piano?
- 10. Which politician managed Gerald Ford's 1976 presidential campaign?

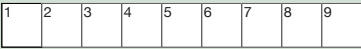
Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Kingsley Amis; 2 Gabriel Axel; 3 John Blashford-Snell; 4 February 1st; 5 Italian; 6 Claudette Colbert; 7 The Boston Strangler; 8 Stephen Foster; 9 North Carolina; 10 Elias Howe.
Niner: DAUGHTERS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

91729 gives a composer,
62841 gives a singer,
374578 gives an instrument.



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Stacey and regulars enjoy the open day after the refurb



It's service with a smile and, above, a close-up of the Classic Combo



Good food, friendly staff and now refurbished Pigot also has WOW factor

IT'S not just a pub, it's part of village life. Anyone who knows Pattingham will know the Pigot. Many couples who have grown-up children look back with affection and talk of the time they met up at the upstairs disco.

But this pub is not living in the past, as proved by the latest refurb which has definitely given it the wow factor.

Over the years we have seen various changes but this time it seems different. The Pigot reopened recently after a refurb inside and out. It looks fresher, more welcoming and has everything you could want in a pub.

There is a pool table and area where the younger customers can get together, space to enjoy a chat and a drink and catch up with sport on the large television, if you choose, and of course the impressive restaurant area.

As you enter the Pigot you are greeted by a lovely open fireplace and the greeting is as warm as the fire. And that, more importantly, is the big difference. Suddenly its popularity has really

Sue Attwater reports

taken off and not just because of its new look. Now at the helm is Stacey Wallace who has brought back the spark to this Stonegate pub, introducing various social activities to pack the pub with people from the village and further afield. And she is not afraid to roll up her sleeves, she can also take credit for the food as she is a regular in the kitchen.

We popped in recently on a Saturday to celebrate my husband's birthday - I won't say how old he is but quite a few decades - and we were given a special long table so we could be all together, eight adults and three little ones. They are used to catering for families and a kids menu is just £3.99 for a main and dessert.

It was a Saturday afternoon but despite the fact that we were quite a large party we did not feel we were infringing on anyone else's space. In fact there is plenty of seating in the restaurant which can cater for 55 covers. The food was served promptly and although it took a while for us all to decide what we wanted there was no attempt to rush us.

Various dishes were ordered, steak, chicken and fish options, and for starters several tucked into their amazing sharing platters. I say amazing because they are enormous and come in two varieties, the Classic Combo at £11.29 which includes southern-fried-style chicken breast goujons, chicken wings, wedges, onion rings, nachos, scampi, garlic bread and dips.

Option

And for fish lovers - that's me - the Fish Deli Board at £10.79 has generous helpings of scampi, calamari, salmon and a pot of king prawns in a spicy Marie Rose sauce served with horseradish cream and fresh tartare sauce, seeded granary, stone-baked ciabatta and lemon wedges.

They are also a wonderful option if you just want to pop in for a quick lunch or early tea. I can't talk about all the dishes, as there were so many of us, although I will say it went very quiet when we were eating, always a sign of good food.

As far as mine was concerned I opted for the sole fillets - I did say I was a fish lover - which came with champagne and chive sauce, new potatoes and a selection of seasonal vegetables - delicious! It was washed down by a bottle of their

Tierra Merlot. I know you should drink white wine with fish but I just had to break the rule as that Merlot is lovely and at only £10.75 a bottle is a real bargain.

And as the plates were cleared away they arrived with a birthday cake from the kitchen, made by my lovely daughter and dropped off earlier. Needless to say the grandchildren were on hand to blow out the 'considerable' number of candles.

A lovely afternoon and catch up enjoyed by all - the adults I am afraid stayed and drank a lot later - made even better by the lovely food and pleasant service.

The pub also offers cask ales with regular guest ales from local breweries. There is a large garden and seating areas front and back and a large car park. And just to give you an idea of what the customers think.

Here are just two customer comments. "They have done an awesome job of the refurb, really stylish and chilled out lovely staff, awesome food and one of the best pints around" "The pub feels really classy and stylish, but maintains the feeling of a country village pub." Well, you can't say better than that!

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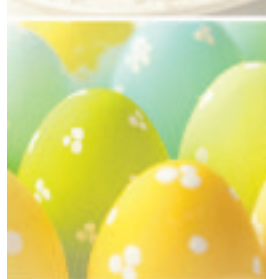
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First floor cul-de-sac apartment for over 55s

A PURPOSE-BUILT, first floor two-bedroomed flat within a cul-de-sac of flats and bungalows has been designed with older clientele in mind.

3 Waveney Avenue, Perton, near Wolverhampton, can only be offered to people who are aged over 55. Within the heart of Perton, a short walk from amenities, it is for sale through Rees Page at £75,000 through shared ownership.

Well presented and with double glazing and central heating, it is clean and spacious with a parking space and communal lawned gardens plus an area for drying clothes.

The title is leasehold on a fixed shared ownership basis of 70/30 per cent although no additional rent is payable just simply a service charge.

For further information contact Rees Page on 01902 577775 or visit www.reespage.com website.



A three-bedroom semi with no chain

A THREE-BEDROOMED semi-detached property in a cul-de-sac at Watson Road, Fordhouses, Wolverhampton, is for sale through Skitts at £135,000 with no chain.

With double glazing and gas central heating, it also has driveway parking.

The entrance hall has wooden flooring with stairs off, there is a lounge with feature fireplace and a door opening to the garden and sliding doors to a dining room with a feature fireplace and a bay window.

The kitchen with tiled splashbacks, space for appliances and a door to the rear garden. There are three bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs.

For further information contact Skitts on 01902 788188 or visit www.skitts.net



Modern family home has a luxury bathroom



THIS three-bedroomed semi in Claremont Road, Penn Fields, is in a convenient position.

It is for sale through Jackson Lile & Close at £158,500. It has a fitted living kitchen/dining area with built-in double oven and grill, five-burner gas hob, cooker hood with extractor, dishwasher, washing machine, fridge and freezer, extending spice/larder unit and island.

There is an attractive lounge with a polished granite fireplace with a flame-effect gas fire, three bedrooms, a deluxe bathroom with a P-shaped bath with shower above.

The front garden is lawned and there is driveway parking, garage and wrought iron gates to an attractive garden.

Contact 01902 712812 or visit www.jacksonlileandclose.co.uk website.



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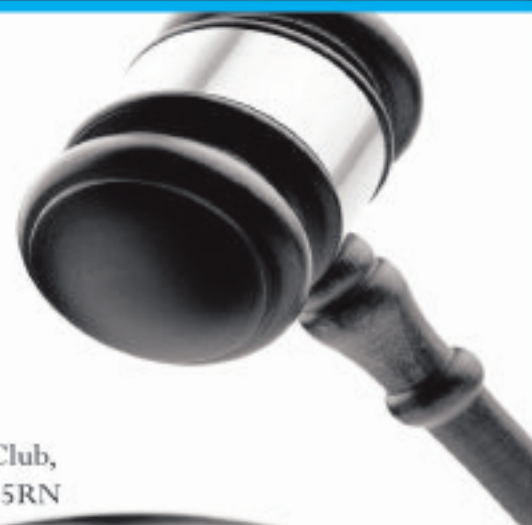
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NEW

QUARRY BANK, Thorns Road£895 pcm+Fees
A superb extended traditional detached home close to Merry Hill and local train stations. Featuring a large lounge, separate dining room, country style kitchen with range cooker, 3 double bedrooms, walk in shower room, extensive rear garden with ample parking and driveway to the front. EPC: TBC



OLDBURY, Titford Road £895 pcm+Fees
A very well presented, spacious semi detached period property perfect for a large family refurbished to a high standard. Briefly comprising 2 reception rooms, good size kitchen, utility, downstairs w.c & shower room, 5 good size bedrooms, study area / dressing area, first floor shower & family bathroom, garage and off road parking for 3 cars. EPC: E



ROWLEY REGIS, Spring Vale Road£650 pcm+Fees
An opportunity to acquire a well maintained traditional three bedroom detached property situated in a popular residential location in a quiet cul-de-sac close to local schools, amenities and road links. Comprises of a large living room, fitted kitchen with a double range cooker, downstairs w.c, 2 double & 1 single bedroom. Study. Bathroom with shower, driveway/garage. A lovely property, not to be missed. MINIMUM CONTRACT 12 MONTHS. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Nimmings Road£650 pcm+Fees
Large and terraced property close to Blackheath Town Centre & Rowley Regis Train Station. This property features lounge, new fitted kitchen/dining area, 3 bedrooms, ensuite shower room, house bathroom with shower, central heating, double glazing, front & rear gardens with garage to rear of property and driveway parking for up to 3 cars. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Hunnington Crescent£625 pcm+Fees
Recently redecorated and carpeted. This huge 3 bedroom town house has had a full redecoration, carpets and boiler. This house will not stay around for long as its so close to Halesowen Town Centre. Featuring 3 bedrooms, a large lounge with stunning views, bathroom with shower, driveway and garage parking, downstairs wc, small low maintenance rear garden. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Spring Street£595 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished semi detached house a short distance from local shops, number 9 bus route and Colley Lane Primary School. Featuring 3 bedrooms, fitted dining kitchen, lounge, gas central heating, double glazing, bathroom with shower, garage and driveway parking, front and rear gardens. EPC: TBC



NEW

HALESOWEN, Chiltern Close£595 pcm+Fees
A lovely unfurnished or furnished to suit 2 bedroom terrace property on the popular "Squirrels" estate. Featuring a spacious living room, fitted kitchen, conservatory, 2 double bedrooms, refitted shower room, gas central heating, private rear garden with decking, parking area. MINIMUM CONTRACT 12 MONTHS. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Wright Street£595 pcm+Fees
A stunning unfurnished or furnished to suit 2 bedroom cottage style mid terrace house which has recently been refurbished to a very high standard comprising of: Lounge with feature fireplace, fabulous fitted kitchen, 2 good size bedrooms, bathroom with shower, rear garden, new gas central heating system. On road parking in this very quiet location central to Halesowen. Not to be missed! EPC: E



LYE, STOURBRIDGE, Overman Close£575 pcm+Fees
Beautifully presented and not to be missed! Located at the end of a cul-de-sac, this 2 double bedroom modern mid terrace property features a spacious lounge, dining kitchen with white goods and integrated electric oven and separate gas hob, downstairs WC, family bathroom with shower, wardrobes in the master bedroom and an enclosed rear garden. Also benefiting from off road parking, gas central heating and double glazing. EPC: TBC



NEW

HALESOWEN, Milverton Close£575 pcm+Fees
A modern furnished to suit 2 bedroom ground floor flat in this very popular residential area comprising of: large lounge, 2 double bedrooms, fitted kitchen with appliances, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, parking space. EPC: D



ROWLEY REGIS, Aqua Court£550 pcm+Fees
Beautifully presented and not to be missed. This new build ground floor apartment, a stones throw away from Blackheath Town Centre and featuring 2 double bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, open plan lounge/kitchen, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking space, viewing highly recommended. EPC: B



ROWLEY REGIS, Mincing Lane£550 pcm+Fees
Located within a short drive from local shops, and the M5 J2, is this well presented terraced house, briefly comprising of: 3 bedrooms, new fitted kitchen, utility room, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, driveway parking for 2 cars, rear garden, unfurnished. EPC: D



NEW

HALESOWEN, Hope Street £495 pcm+Fees
A fully refurbished ground floor apartment having spacious lounge, refitted kitchen with integrated oven and hob, 3 bedrooms, refitted bathroom and newly fitted carpets. The apartment has a garage and gardens to front and rear, full double glazing and gas central heating. EPC: D



DUDLEY, Attingham Drive £495 pcm+Fees
A part furnished 2nd floor apartment close to Dudley Town Centre. Featuring an open plan lounge/dining kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with a shower, electric storage heating, double glazing, alarm, allocated parking. EPC TBC



QUINTON, College Road £475 pcm+Fees
Large flat available above a shop close to direct bus links to Birmingham comprising of lounge, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, 2 large double bedrooms plus extra study/storage room, white bathroom with shower, electric plug in heating. Available Now. EPC: G



NETHERTON, Mousesweet Lane£475 pcm+Fees
A modern style furnished to suit ground floor apartment in superbly convenient location in a quiet cul-de-sac featuring entrance hallway, lounge with electric fire, fitted kitchen with appliances, 1 double bedroom, bathroom suite with shower, rear access to private courtyard, driveway for 2 cars, gas central heating, double glazing. EPC: D



ROWLEY REGIS, Midhill Drive£475 pcm+Fees
A beautifully presented part furnished and located in a quiet road, is this split level semi detached bungalow. Featuring 1 gallery bedroom with walk in wardrobe and bed, downstairs shower room, modern fitted kitchen, double glazing, rear garden, driveway parking. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Pippin Avenue£425 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished, modern, spacious ground floor flat on this popular estate and briefly comprising: open plan living room/fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, electric storage heating, full double glazing, parking space. A minimum contract of 12 months is required. EPC: D



NEW

CRADLEY HEATH, Victoria Gardens£395 pcm+Fees
A modern top floor apartment, in the centre of Old Hill with local bus stop outside and Old Hill train station close by. This apartment comprises of 1 double bedroom, electric storage heating, double glazing, fitted kitchen with shower, allocated parking, unfurnished. EPC: C



KIDDERMINSTER, Bewdley Road£350 pcm+Fees
A fully re-furnished 1st floor studio apartment comprising of a combined lounge/bedroom, fitted kitchen with electric cooker, white bathroom suite with shower. Gas central heating, double glazing. EPC: TBC



LYE, High Street £330 pcm+Fees
Located in the centre of Lye at Lye Cross. This 2nd floor flat above shops features a large lounge, kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, and is available immediately. EPC: TBC

PROPERTY

Thoughtfully improved to include a new kitchen



THIS four double-bedroomed semi-detached house in Norman Road, Smethwick, is for sale through Humberstones Homes at £239,995.

It has a porch, an entrance hall with stairs off, dining room with a bay window, a lounge with coal-effect fire, refitted breakfast kitchen, downstairs shower room and a store.

On the first floor are four bedrooms. The house bathroom has an attractive white suite. The delightful rear garden includes a patio, lawn, border and shed. Contact Humberstones Homes on 0121 4344345 or visit www.humberstoneshomes.co.uk website.



Mid-terrace house for sale priced £120,000



A BEAUTIFULLY presented two-bedroom mid-terrace in Aldersley Road, Wolverhampton, is being offered for sale through DB Roberts & Partners at £120,000 – with no chain.

With gas central heating and double glazing, accommodation briefly comprises two reception rooms – currently used as a sitting room and separate dining room – both with attractive feature fireplaces and wood-effect flooring.

There is also a good-sized, fitted dining kitchen and French doors to the lawned rear garden.

Call 01902 427257 or visit www.dbroberts.co.uk website.



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29
Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, March 3, 2016

Halesowen



Conifer Paddock

- * Detached bungalow
- * Re-fitted kitchen
- * Fantastic conservatory
- * Bedroom with fitted wardrobes
- * Re-fitted shower room/wet room
- * Garage
- * Landscaped rear garden EPC=tbc

Offers in the region of £149,950

Halesowen



Chantry Drive

- * Detached bungalow
- * Two bedrooms
- * Conservatory
- * NO UPWARD CHAIN
- EPC=E

Offers in the region of £205,000

Oldbury



Elsma Road

- * Semi-detached house
- * Dining room and living room
- * Three good sized bedrooms
- * Garage
- * Good sized rear garden
- EPC=F

Offers in the region of £205,000

Dudley



Festival Court St. Johns Street

- * Ground Floor Flat
- * Communal entrance
- * Two bedrooms
- * Gated car park
- * Storage heating
- EPC=C

Offers in excess of £70,000

Birmingham B32



Court Oak Road

- * End terraced house
- * Kitchen/breakfast room
- * Shower room
- * Three bedrooms
- * Rear garden
- EPC=tbc

Offers in the region of £189,950

Oldbury



Wolverhampton Road

- * Detached House
- * Living room and dining room
- * Kitchen and breakfast room
- * Conservatory
- * Five bedrooms
- * Garage
- * Extensive rear garden EPC=D

Offers in the region of £359,950

Halesowen



Wall Well

- * Spacious detached bungalow with open aspect at rear * Two Bedrooms, bathroom with both bath and shower * Kitchen/breakfast room with oven, hob, cooker hood and fridge
- * Conservatory and enclosed gardens
- * Side garage.
- Internal inspection recommended EPC=C

Offers in the region of £225,000

Halesowen



Hagley Road

- * Self contained flat
- * Main accommodation on first floor
- * Two bedrooms
- * Allocated parking space
- * Close to bus stop and shops
- EPC=C

£121,500

Quinton



Conway Avenue

- * Cul de sac location
- * Three bedrooms
- * Two receptions
- * Kitchen and utility
- * Pleasant rear garden
- EPC=D

Offers in the region of £229,950

Halesowen



Manor Lane

- * Extended semi-detached house
- * Four bedrooms
- * Re-fitted kitchen and bathroom
- * Two reception rooms
- * Good sized rear garden
- EPC=D

Offers in the region of £284,950

Dudley



Swan Street

- * Large end terrace house
- * Downstairs wc
- * Re-fitted kitchen/breakfast room
- * Lounge and dining room
- * Three bedrooms
- * Bathroom
- * Additional plot of land EPC=D

Offers in the region of £135,000

Halesowen



Manor Abbey Road

- * Detached house
- * In need of some general improvement
- * Two reception rooms
- * Three good sized bedrooms
- * Conservatory
- * Tandem garage and fantastic rear garden
- EPC=E

Offers in the region of £325,000

Stourbridge



Redlake Road

- * A spacious detached family house
- * Potential for further extension (subject to planning permission) * In need of some modernisation and general improvement
- * Kitchen and utility * Lounge, dining room and sun lounge * Four bedrooms (Principal with en-suite bathroom * House bathroom EPC=D

Offers in the region of £525,000

Oldbury



Hamilton Street Off Kingsway

- * Semi-detached house
- * Fitted kitchen
- * Two bedrooms
- * Off road parking for two vehicles
- * 50% shared ownership
- EPC=C

Offers in the region of £67,500

Halesowen



Frankley Avenue

- * Semi-detached house
- * Extended living room
- * Re-fitted kitchen, utility room and downstairs wc * Conservatory
- * Three bedrooms
- * Side garage
- * Good size rear garden EPC=D

Offers in the region of £249,950

Halesowen



Carters Lane

- * Detached
- * Three Bedrooms
- * Two Reception Rooms
- * Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- * Rear Garden * Side Garage
- * In need of some general modernisation
- EPC=D

Offers in the region of £259,950

Birmingham B32



Parkside

- * Semi-detached house
- * Three bedrooms
- * Kitchen/breakfast room
- * Shower room
- * Rear garden
- * Garage
- EPC=C

Offers in the region of £129,950

Halesowen



Roundhills Road

- * Detached house with 4 bedrooms
- * Lounge, sitting room & conservatory
- * Kitchen, utility, fitted cloakroom
- * Bi-fold doors from conservatory opening to landscaped gardens
- * Garage, two drives, gas boiler heating radiators EPC=D

£219,950

Halesowen



Carters Lane

- * Detached family house extended at rear
- * Scope for some upgrading and re-planning
- * Kitchen (utility, shower room, and store formed out of garage)
- * Three reception rooms
- * Three bedrooms * Bathroom with separate wc
- * Pleasant gardens EPC=E

Offers in the region of £275,000

Birmingham B17



Peter Bennett Close 140 Court Oak Road

- * First floor apartment for occupation of the elderly * Communal entrance hall
- * Living room with balcony
- * Two bedrooms * Bathroom
- * Communal gardens
- * Communal off road parking EPC=C

Offers in excess of £80,000

Halesowen



Oaklands Court 251 Spies Lane

- * Second floor flat
- * Living room
- * Living room with balcony
- * Two bedrooms
- * Communal parking
- * Communal gardens
- EPC=C

Offers in the region of £119,950

Halesowen



Lodge Close

- * A spacious four bedroom detached house.
- * Desirable location and enclosed gardens.
- * Two en-suites, house bathroom.
- * Lounge, dining room and study.
- * Fitted kitchen leading to conservatory.
- * Double garage with electric door, utility room.
- * Internal inspection recommended. EPC=tbc

Offers in the region of £550,000

Halesowen



Manor Lane

- * Scope for some general modernisation
- * Detached house with large garden
- * Lounge, separate dining room
- * Kitchen/breakfast room * Four bedrooms, bathroom with both bath and shower
- * Garage and carport * Close to local shops and the Royal Oak Public House EPC=D

Offers in the region of £299,950

Oldbury



Warwick Close

- * End terraced house
- * Living room
- * Kitchen diner
- * Two good sized bedrooms
- * Shower room with separate wc
- * Ideal for first time buyers
- EPC=D

Offers in the region of £124,950

Stourbridge



Birchgate

- * Spacious detached house
- * Four good sized bedrooms and bathroom with both bath and shower * Two reception rooms, fitted cloakroom * Kitchen/breakfast room
- * Pleasant enclosed gardens, side garage
- * Gas boiler heating radiators, double glazed windows EPC=D

Offers in the region of £255,000

Oldbury



Alexandra Court Pennicricket Lane

- * Ground floor purpose built flat
- * Two bedrooms, bathroom with shower over bath * Lounge with focal point fire
- * Fitted kitchen with oven hob and extractor
- * Allocated parking space * Communal gardens
- * Vacant possession available EPC=D

Offers in the region of £75,000

Halesowen



Ladysmith Road

- * Mid terraced house, ideal first time purchase
- * Tastefully presented
- * Two reception rooms
- * Downstairs bathroom
- * Two bedrooms
- * Gas boiler heating radiators
- * Landscaped garden EPC=D

Offers in the region of £99,950

Halesowen



Spiral Close

- * First floor flat
- * Double bedroom
- * Ideal first time buy
- * Lounge & dining area
- * Communal gardens
- * Off road parking
- EPC=D

Offers in the region of £68,500

Halesowen



Lyttleton House Blackberry Lane

- * Retirement flat
- * Two bedrooms
- * Shower room
- EPC=C

Offers in the region of £99,950

Halesowen



King Charles Road

- * Detached bungalow
- * Kitchen/breakfast room
- * Two reception rooms
- * Two bedrooms
- * further bedroom/sitting room
- * Two shower rooms
- * Conservatory EPC=D

Offers in the region of £299,950



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HADEN HILL ROAD, HALESOWEN

SUPERB EXTENDED detached home overlooking woodland to rear. 23ft lounge, 14ft sitting room & 14ft dining room/bedroom 3 on ground floor. REFITTED bathroom & MODERN kitchen with sun lounge to rear. 2 further DOUBLE bedrooms on 1st floor with en-suite shower. Garage & blackpaved driveway to front. GCH & UPVC DG fitted. EPC rating: E

QUINTON

£324,950

NEW PRICE



ABBEY ROAD, SMETHWICK

EXTENDED home overlooking WARLEY WOODS park with GARAGE & driveway. 15ft dining room & 17ft lounge leading to EXTENDED 14ft kitchen. 3 GOOD size bedrooms & bathroom with white suite. Lawn rear garden. GCH & UPVC DG fitted. EPC rating: F

BEARWOOD

£214,950

NEW



EDWARD ROAD, OLDBURY

EXTENDED & WELL PRESENTED family home with 3 GOOD sized bedrooms. Having 2 reception rooms, EXTENDED 19ft breakfast kitchen, CONSERVATORY, & utility room/office. REFITTED family bathroom on 1st floor. Garage & driveway to front. Lovely SOUTH facing rear garden. GCH & UPVC DG fitted. EPC rating: D

QUINTON

£204,950

NEW



WHITE ROAD, QUINTON

Traditional home IN NEED OF MODERNISATION & having scope for EXTENDING. 2 good size reception rooms, kitchen & side verandah. 3 bedrooms & bathroom on 1st floor. Front garden having potential to put in a driveway. Extensive rear garden with PRIVATE aspect. GCH & majority UPVC DG. EPC rating: D

QUINTON

£164,950

NEW



REGINALD ROAD, SMETHWICK

CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED and well presented home, HANDY FOR LOCAL SHOPS, with dg & gch, 2 reception rooms, REFITTED kitchen, 2 DOUBLE bedrooms, REFITTED bathroom, pleasant low maintenance rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC tbc.

BEARWOOD

£129,950

NEW



SIMMONS DRIVE, QUINTON

Thoughtfully improved and WELL PRESENTED intermediate Town House WITH GARAGE and PLEASANT REAR GARDEN, having gch and dg, with Entrance hall (downstairs wc off), DELIGHTFUL LOUNGE, spacious RE-FITTED DINING KITCHEN (having oven/hob), 3 BEDROOMS, bathroom. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC rating D.

QUINTON

£119,950

MUST BE VIEWED



VALLEY ROAD, HALESOWEN

UNFURNISHED - AVAILABLE NOW - SPACIOUS & REFURBISHED with GARAGE. BRAND NEW BREAKFAST KITCHEN, 23FT family/dining room, separate lounge, DWG & utility. 4 beds & NEW BATHROOM. UPVC DBG & GCH. Off road parking to front & rear garden. NO DSS, NO PETS, NO SMOKERS. Subject to a non-refundable administrative fees of £100 per tenant. EPC rating D.

QUINTON

£850 PCM

NEW



NAILERS CLOSE, QUINTON

UNFURNISHED AVAILABLE APRIL 2016 - Two DOUBLE beds with PARKING & GARAGE. Cul de sac location. 14ft lounge, dining room, conservatory and kitchen. 2 bedrooms and bathroom. Gardens to front & rear. GCH & double glazed. - NO DSS - NO PETS OR SMOKERS. Subject to non refundable admin fee of £100 per tenant EPC rating D

QUINTON

£575 PCM

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NEW



CLENT VIEW RD, BARTLEY GREEN

UNFURNISHED - AVAILABLE NOW - Well presented & spacious semi-det home. 11ft breakfast kitchen & 16ft lounge diner. 3 bedrooms & REFITTED bathroom. DRIVEWAY to front. OPEN ASPECT garden to rear. UPVC DG & GCH. NO DSS, NO PETS, NO SMOKERS. EPC Rating: TBC - Subject to admin fee of £100 per tenant.

QUINTON

£650 PCM

NEW



WYCHERLEY WAY, CRADLEY HEATH

UNFURNISHED - AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY - WELL PRESENTED - NEW CARPETS - 2nd floor apartment with 2 DOUBLE bedrooms, lounge, kitchen and fitted bathroom. CAR PARK to rear. DBG & gas central heating. NO DSS, NO SMOKERS, NO PETS. EPC Rating B - Subject to non refundable admin fee of £100 per tenant. EPC rating: B

QUINTON

£495 PCM

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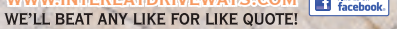
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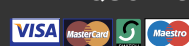
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Index

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07928 120285.

1

Family

elderly & disabled

MOBILITY SCOOTER Road Knight, excellent condition, £400. Stairlift, as new, used once, £750. 01384 484309 or 07930 949337.

MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350 can deliver, servicing available. Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384 255019 / 07831 246292.

WHEELCHAIR self propelled, fold up, lightweight. Little use. Very good condition. £50 ono. 01902 671425.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2

Leisure Time

boats & water sports

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£19,500 ono.
01785 715038. 07719 773262

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caravans / motorhomes

BAILEY PAGEANT MOBILE
2004, L-shaped diner, 4-berth, motor mover, CRIS Reg., full awning, lovely condition.
£5,300.
07962 179883/01902 684602 call after 6pm.

ELDDIS AUTOSTRATUS CK 2000 (2001) 4-berth, end bathroom, immaculate, low miles, MoT Jan 17. £12,500. 01952 414480.

ELDDIS FOUR BERTH Wisp 400 Supreme Caravan, £750. 07889 071146.

SWIFT LIFESTYLE 4FB
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07956 669891.

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what's on

antique fairs

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HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

3

Home & Services

furniture

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PINK BUNKBEDS, inc mattresses, 2 wooden drawers underneath must collect. Immaculate. £200 ono. 01902 338505 / 0785 2242409.

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3 Piece Suite
TWO x 2 SEATER SETTEES AND ONE ARMCHAIR
Beige patterned fabric.
Excellent condition,
used by couple only.
£500 ono.
01384 359463

household appliances

FRIDGE FREEZER in excellent condition. £85. Can deliver. Telephone 07464 026970.

FRIDGE FREEZER in excellent condition. £85. Can deliver. Telephone 07464 026970.

in your garden

LAWN TRACTOR
22hp, 42 inch cut with collector, totally new and unused, cost £3,500, will accept. £1,850.
Can deliver.
07710 169150.

LAWN TRACTOR
22HP, 42 inch cut, with collector, totally new and unused, cost £3,500 will accept £1,850.
Can deliver.
07710 169150.

items for sale

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07850 330251

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thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

AIR RIFLES, SHOT GUNS, Antique guns, taxidermy- big bore guns, traps etc wanted. 07968 624202

BRITISH COINS AND MEDALS wanted by private collector. Please contact 01902 676540.
READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.
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• TV Wall Mounts
• We repair any TV's
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alarms/security

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GERMAN SHEPHERD pups, long haired, first vacs, health checked. £375. 07972 604503.
JACK RUSSELL bitch, Jack russel X Chihuahua bitch. £150 each. 07547 830512.

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1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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WE ARE ALSO NOW AVAILABLE FOR PET TAXI'S
(No booking necessary).

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07847 360784.

YORKSHIRE CROSS Jack Russell puppy, boy, 12 weeks old, wormed and flea'd, parents can be seen, £150 o.n.o. 01384 386009.

5 Business & Farming
business opportunities

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6 Property
accommodation to let

A TWO BED FLAT off Tottenhall Rd, CH, DG, Off road parking, £115.50 pw 01902 340073 / 07770 680636.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

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TWO BED PROPERTY to let in Quarry Bank, recently refurbished, private parking. 07763 461841.

houses for sale

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£115,000.
07581 145237.

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overseas property

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Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

8 Motoring

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Plus
6 nights free if you do not sell.

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01902 317878

RENAULT MEGANE October 2011, 1600cc, petrol, red, MoT till September, excellent condition, 14,700 miles, £2,520 ono. 07938 661821.



SUZUKI JIMNY JEEP
2004, 1328cc, petrol, 4WD, black and silver, 60,000 miles, MoT October, tow bar, spare wheel, cherished plate, good condition.
£2,750.
01691 791544/07980 850051.

TOYOTA RAV4 3dr, 54 reg, black with grey interior, service history, £2,795. 01562 710289.

VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN
1.6 petrol, 2006, 5-dr, half leather interior, 12 months MoT, FSH, very nice spec, 93,000 miles, very clean and reliable.
£1,990.
07933 332936.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 Club, 58 reg, 59,000 miles, blue, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, alloys, very good condition £1,899 07879 403302.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8SRi
2007, 9,000 miles, grey, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, alarm, MoT, metallic paint, central locking, cruise control, pas, alloys, CD.
£3,500 ono.
07425 136504.



VOLVO C30 D2

2010, 3 door, hatchback, manual, 1560cc, diesel.
Excellent condition, very economical. £30 a year tax, MoT September, alloy wheels.
£6,750.
Telephone 01691 791544 or 07980 850051.

VW FOX 09, 53,000 miles, 12 months MoT, immaculate, in yellow, lady owner, well looked after, excellent condition, genuine sale, £3,500. 07739 730090.

VW GOLF 04, 1.4FSi, black, low miles, careful lady owner, well looked after, excellent condition, genuine sale, £3,500. 07739 730090.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CHEVROLET LACETTI, January 2008, 9 door, silver, 46,552 miles, 8 months MoT, £500 ono. 07854 938893 or 07398 991971.

CITROEN PICASSO TD, SX, MPV, 7B, 03, full MoT, FSH, immaculate condition, 5875. 07469 847937.

FIAT PUNTO 1.2, Immaculate, 2002, MoT. Drives all good. 83,000 miles, £395. 07833 645688.

FIAT PUNTO 2004, silver, grey, petrol, MoT until June, 115,000 miles, £250 ono. 01902 342143.

FORD FIESTA 1.25, 2004, 5 door, 89,300 miles, CD, blue, fsh, MoT, heated screen, Goodyear tyres. Clean. Must be seen. £1,195 ono. 07525 046948.

FORD FIESTA 1.6TDCi, 06 reg, silver, 3 door, 10 months MoT, excellent condition, £995. Telephone 07498 131071.

FORD FOCUS 1.8 Ghia, diesel, 52 reg, long MoT, FSH, good condition, £990 ono. 07903 777567.

FORD MONDEO 2 litre LX 02, A/C, CD, alloys, good condition, MoT June 2016, serviced, 2 owners, 49k miles. £875 ovno. 07887 593617.

FORD MONDEO ESTATE, 2005, 60,000 miles only, 2 litre Zetec petrol, Exceeding condition, 2 owners. Silver, CD, air con, etc. £1,495. 01902 764170.

KIA SEDONA 2.9 DIESEL, 7 seater, 2004 plate, Black, New Cambelt, tyres and brakes. Bargain at £1,200. 01562 637158.

MAZDA 323i 1997, 6 months MoT, clean car, £275. 01902 674562.

MERCEDES C200 Kompressor Elegance, 2001, Auto, Estate, dark blue, MoT Oct 2, 2016, service history, £1,500. 07850 037162.

PEUGEOT 206C 1.4 ESTATE Silver, 55,000 miles, 12 months MoT, 2 owners, FSH, 1st to see will buy £1,500. 07939 483221.

PEUGEOT 307 1.6 DIESEL HDI, 2005, 5-dr, MoT April, Drives well. £995. o.n.o. 07939 797979.

PEUGEOT 307S, 2007, 74k, Black, FSH. Excellent condition. New Shape. £1,500. o.n.o. Telephone 07913 981460.

RENAULT CLIO 1.5 DCi 02 plate, lower than average miles. Brand new clutch. Cambelt changed. MoT till June. 60mpg. £20 per year Road Tax. Good runner.

Call 07977 409132 after 5pm.

SKODA OCTAVIA Saloon, 1.9 Turbo Diesel, 53 plate, 77,000 miles, AC, EV, £1,500. 50+mpg. Buyer could call.

SUZUKI IGNIS 1.3, 52 reg, 5dr, full MoT, drives like new, very low mileage, black, very clean car, £695. Call 07594 474822.

VW PASSAT Estate, 2.0 petrol, 02 reg, 67k, MoT, FSH, EW, £995 ono. 01902 470560.

VW PASSAT S 20V SALOON Silver, 52 reg, petrol, MoT June 30, 2016, £1,250. 07973 505851.

driving tuition

classic cars



CLASSIC AUSTIN MINI

1988, 75,724 miles, blue, MoT, alloys, CD, very good condition, bucket seats, adjustable suspension, original seats, wheels and tyres supplied.
£2,800 ono.
07805 904961.

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer. Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. £2,900 ono. 07491 068650. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

motorbikes

BMW R1100GS, 1999, T reg, red, 40k miles, full luggage, new tyres and starter motor, excellent condition, £2,900 ono. 07491 068650.

HONDA 600CC Silverwing scooter, 03 reg, long MoT, £1,200. Honda C90, 1986, £650. Call for details 0787 7722908.

HONDA 650CC DEAUVILLE W reg, 32,000 miles, very good condition, Full MoT. New Dress just fitted. £1,500 ono. 07877 722908.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

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vehicles wanted

alan reed cars
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Buyer could call.
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spares & accessories

tow bars & trailers

TRAILER, 4ft x 3ft, with jockey wheel, £140 ono. 07805 942308.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk

(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

MAVIS EDITH CORNICK (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 43 Garland Crescent, Halesowen, West Midlands B62 9NH, who died on 16/12/2015, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 12/05/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Thursfields Solicitors, Hyfield House, 36 Hagley Road, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 4RH. Attn: Richard Price Ref: RFP/C05411/0003

10 Personals

personal

AT MANYANA Gentlemen's Club. 5* customer rated Mon-Fri 10-9pm. Sat-Sun: 10-11pm. 0121 472 7281.

GENTLEMAN
Would like to meet another Gent for friendship, holidays, fun and outings.
Box Number P20246, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

I AM IN LATE 60'S WIDOWED
Very modern, fit, sincere and caring would love to meet a genuine widower for Friendship.
Photo appreciated and returned.
Box Number P20244, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

general

STRAITS FC
Based Bilston-Coseley border.
Own private pitches.
Looking for Players:
Under 8's and Under 13's
for next Season.
Also Managers and Coaches.
Contact Steve Ball: 07542 359020.

PLACE A CLASSIFIED ADVERT AT A TIME THAT SUITS YOU!

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Here's how to use your dating service ...

To **Place** your advert call: To **Place** your ad by text

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Simply text **REG** followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert (max 155 characters) and send to **80098** FREE Standard Network rates apply.

YOU can now **Date ONLINE** or via your mobile just visit:

<http://dating.expressandstar.com>

THE biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet **you.. visit..** <http://dating.expressandstar.com>

Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

HONEST sincere affectionate nurse, 48, OHAC, WLTm child friendly male/single dad for dates, chats, laughter and more. Any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421111

FM Chloe, 33yrs old, sensual blonde lady with fabulous figure, workaholic, seeking new circle of men for casual fun. Looks/age/status unimportant must be fun and openminded. Tel: 0906 515 3042 Box 420261

SUSANNAH, 48, curly female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341

ROSIE, 43yrs, bored and lonely, I don't get out much but would like to meet a nice chap, married or single, fun only pls. Text only Box 407822

MICHELLE 39yr old nurse, slim, petite, blonde, blue eyes, looking to enjoy life with similar romantic, caring guy. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420791

JENNI, hairdresser, brunette, caring and fun. WLTm chap any age, must be discreet with car, I have a nice home to meet in. Text only Box: 4139156

DEBS lonely 40's female with no ties, GSOH, N/S, loves the simple things in life looking for similar soul mate to be happy together with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420729

KAREN, curvy brunette, 42yrs loves men of all ages and sizes but must make me laugh. I am married with open marriage. Text only Box: 420257

JULIE, 47, blonde brown eyes, size 12, various interests, loves cuddling, kissing and showing affection, seeks similar energetic male friend for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420357

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417965

46YR old Asian lady looking for friendship maybe more with white male 50+ Text only to Mailbox: 5404865

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3002 Box 419673

TRISH, 45, tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves TLC. WLTm male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421137

SUE, 38yrs, passionate, broadminded and feisty seeks discreet fun with 'Mr Wrong' Tel: 0906 515 3034 Box 413007

LOUISE 35, loves meals out, WLTm tallish, compassionate 'mature' male who is not frightened to express themselves and enjoy life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421135

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3010 Box: 409715

ANGELA, 42, green eyed dark haired feminine lady who enjoys walking and keeping fit, seeking lonely kind gentleman for good times and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421115

LUCY first time advertiser, 32yrs, tall slim blonde airline worker, seeks discreet gent, any status for casual fling. Looks/age unimportant. Tel: 0906 515 3026 Box: 420237

MARGARET 39, dark hair/eyed attractive petite divorcee, new to area and looking to start a new life, WLTm child friendly male, single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421129

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3018 Box: 413399

ANNA, 41, new to single life seeking caring professional male for no strings fun, attention and laughter. Life is too short, lets enjoy it! Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421127

KAREN, 42yrs, attractive and broadminded, seeks no strings fun with chap any age, must be discreet. Tel: 0906 515 3038 Box: 407953

BEV 30yr old curvy attractive female, likes music, travel, animals, cosy nights in front of a log fire, looking for affectionate male for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420715

SUE, 46, confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings in with great food and conversations. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420701

CAROLINE, 42yrs, slim attractive blonde, varied interests and solvent, WLTm honest male of any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420685

CHRIS, 67, brunette, cuddly, WLTm caring, kind gentleman, for days out, meals out, walks etc and for just being together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420667

LILY, genuine lady looking for a genuine man. I like cosy nights in and am a smoker. Text only mailbox no: 5372466

SAMANTHA pretty brunette, very busty 36, intelligent, independent with a real lust for life, seeks big-hearted stocky male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420599

YVONNE, single mum, happy with life, but would like to meet someone to share fun times with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420269

48 year old, slim, green eyed female, n/s, likes meals out, local theatre, live local bands, nights in, looking for a gentleman, 48-52, for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420839

FEMALE, 37, new to area, would like to meet nice trustworthy man, for friendship hopefully more. Text only to mailbox: 5392585

CAROL 37 attractive slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring man for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420757

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JACKIE lonely and looking for male company, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl. call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169

SARAH, curvaceous brunette, 35, passionate nature, solvent, OHAC, WLTm date again, looking for male to take me out. Looks/Age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420207

ANN, 38, very attractive female, N/S, positive attitude to life, WLTm similar kind male with a lot of get up and go for romance and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420355

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

CATHY, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420175

TARA 22 tall slim but curvy with legs that go all the way up to heaven, WLTm very appreciative confident male for adult fun. Contact me anytime. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414701

FEMALE, dark haired 5'10, curvy, likes reading, walking, cinema, seeks male 40-50 for lasting relationship. Text only to Mailbox no: 5077545

LYN, 43, divorced very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTm similar male for companionship. Age/looks/Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418795

KELLY young attractive vivacious 48yr old lady, loves good food, cosy nights in/out, holidays etc. WLTm male for mutual companionship Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420195

48 year old, slim, green eyed female, n/s, likes meals out, local theatre, live local bands, nights in, looking for a gentleman, 48-52, for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420839

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YOUR regional dating service, run by the dating experts who have been established since 1990. **REAL people in YOUR region**

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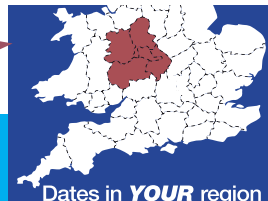
calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do **key-it-in promptly** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

To **Reply** by text:

Text.. REPLY26 (leave a space) the six-digit box number (leave a space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY26 123456 hi get in touch...** then send to **80098** Successfully received messages cost £1.50 per message (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for yr safety and security.

Try it.. You'll love it!



Dates in **YOUR** region

Been left a message? **Pickup** your replies on:

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calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.



BLACK male early 40's, slim, looking for casual adult weekend fun with broadminded, easy going discreet female. Text only mailbox no: 4656899

CHRIS, male, 47, single, 5ft 8ins, blue eyes, brown hair, seeks female between 25 and 45 for fun and maybe more. Please get in touch. Text only mailbox no: 5352046

COLIN 48, kind, caring, loving, seeks kind, caring, cuddly large lady, 40 to 55 for LTR. Text only mailbox no: 4208886

45 year old male WLTm lady friend 35 to 55 who likes to enjoy life. Text only mailbox no: 4215562

MALE, five foot ten, stocky build, hazel eyes, just had broken brow, WLTm 40+ female for rendezvous and romantic nights in. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420543

44, blonde hair, blue eyes, attractive, enjoys outdoors, mountain biking, walking, countryside, cinema, days out, seeks genuine, loving female, 29-37, for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420645

MALE, tall, slim, health professional, honest, easy going, seeks soulmate 45-60 for happy times and maybe romance. Derby area. Text only to mailbox no: 5365864

JOHN, 68, six foot three, salt and pepper hair, n/s, divorced, own business, WLTm a long-term partner to travel and enjoy the good things in life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420433

HANDSOME Indian male, 41, tacile, romantic, likes meals out, days out, walks, nights in, seeks sensitive, intelligent Indian female, 36-46 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 322561

FIT, handsome, Indian male, 40, GSOH, seeks Asian lady, 33-43 for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 365160

ATTRACTIVE professional, Asian male, 43, kind, caring, likes travel, romance, dining, seeks attractive lady, 35-50 for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 370823

MARK 40, 5ft 9ins, brown hair/eyes, attractive, good looking, OHAC/business, likes walks, day trips, cinema, seeks similar female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 348239

SLIM attractive man WLTm caring lady, 40-58, for friendship, reply and claim free hug. Text only mailbox no: 417082

Gay Singles

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

BI curious man, slim, fit, looking for weekdays fun, looking for someone to show me the ropes, 45 to 65. Text only mailbox no: 5378637

DIVORCED male, young 50, own home/business, seeking Asian or East European male 18-25, I'm a generous guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420537

BI-CURIOS 45 years old, slim and good looking, looking for younger bi-curious guy for discreet fun. Text only to Mailbox: 4917435

57YR old male, slim, fit, seeks guy, 30-45 for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 309951

BLACK male seeking black male aged 25 to 30, for discreet adult fun, maybe more. Text only to Mailbox: 5409036

SLIM late 50's male, seeks gay/bi/CD, slim-minded, well-paid, 25-42 for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 336329

Just Friends

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

ATTRACTIVE full figure bi lady 58 seeks female of similar age for fun times. Cotswold area. Text only to Mailbox No: 4636475

36YR attractive black curvy female seeking boyish female local for relationship. Text



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10/10 Mercedes E200 Blue-CT Sport CGI Estate
7 Seater, 52k, Black, Black Leather, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows
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TOP SPEC 69k, Silver, Red Electric Hood, Red Leather, Heated Seats, Air Con, E/Windows
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08/08 Jaguar X-Type 2.2D S Diesel
4dr Automatic, 59k, Blue, Alloys, Half Cream Leather, Air Con, CD, E/Windows
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09/59 Mini Cooper Diesel
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5dr Diesel Estate *£20 ROAD TAX** Average 67 MPG** 42k, Red, Alloys, Air-Con, CD, E/Windows
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14k, Black, *ZERO ROAD TAX* Alloys, Air Con, CD with Aux, E/Windows
£5495 / £28 Per Week

10/10 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4i 16V (100) Exclusiv
5dr Automatic (AC) *ONLY 27400 miles* Silver, Air Con, CD, E/Windows
£5495 / £28 Per Week

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04/54 Mercedes C180K Avantgarde SE
4dr Automatic, 76k, Silver, Alloys, Half Leather, Air Con, CD, E/Windows
£3995 / £23 Per Week

04/04 Mercedes C220 CDI Diesel SE
3dr Automatic Coupe, 77k, Silver, Panoramic Roof, Alloys, Grey Leather, CD, Air-Con, E/Windows
£3995 / £23 Per Week

08/08 Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi Diesel Edge
5dr (140) Automatic, 118k, Blue, Air Con, CD, E/Windows
£3695 / £20 Per Week

07/07 Citroen Xsara Picasso VTX 1.6 HDI Diesel
59k, Beige, Alloys, Air con, CD, E/Windows, Panoramic Sunroof
£3695 / £20 Per Week

09/59 Citroen C3 1.1 First
43k, Black, Air Con, CD, E/Windows, Ideal 1st Car
£2995 / £16 Per Week

Finance example: 05/05 Nissan X-trail 2.2 dCi, Cash Price £3495, Deposit 300, Amount of credit £3195, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 11.8% Apr, 60 Payments of £69.90 (£16.13 per week) Total amount payable £4793.44 (Includes £150 Document fee and £150 Completion fee, Subject to status)

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DRIVETIME



VW on the up with the Up!

Volkswagen is presenting a new Up city car at the Geneva Motor Show this week, with larger wheel options, a more powerful engine and a Beats Audio version with a 300-Watt stereo.

While it won't arrive in showrooms until late summer, ahead of planned September deliveries, VW has revealed the details now, starting with revised bumpers, door mirrors now with inte-

grated indicators and LED daytime running lights.

An impressive 13 paint colours will be offered, although it's not clear at this time how many will be free. Three roof colours and 10 'dashpad' designs will allow for more personalisation.

Ambient lighting in high-spec models is another new feature, with white, orange and blue lights in the High Up, Cross Up and electric-powered E-Up respectively.

Despite improved equipment levels, says VW, the base price of the entry-level Up will stay the same as it is now. In the UK that currently translates to £8,870.

The new engine is expected to be a turbocharged 1.0-litre unit already seen in some other Volkswagen Group cars. The 89bhp unit should offer much more torque than the current normally-aspirated equivalent, while still offering potential for high efficiency.

NEW VIVA 1.0i 75PS ECOFLEX SE

- 5 doors with 5 seats
- Cruise Control with speed limiter
- Electric windows and mirrors
- Lane departure warning



£7,999

SAVE
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MOKKA 1.6i 115PS START/STOP FWD TECH LINE

- 18 inch alloys
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NEW MERIVA 1.4i 100PS TECH LINE

- 17 inch alloys
- Mobile phone system with Bluetooth®
- Multi-function trip computer
- Front and rear parking distance sensors



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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 12.7 (22.3) - 83.1 (3.4), Extra-urban: 23.3 (12.1) - 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 17.9 (15.8) - 91.1 (3.1). CO₂ emissions: 373 - 82g/km.*

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Production of the latest Astra model starts in UK

Vauxhall and sister company Opel celebrated the official start of Astra Sports Tourer production at its plant in Ellesmere Port.

The first vehicle to roll off the production line in Cheshire was an Elite 1.6CDTi, in Flip Chip Silver.

Jubilant plant workers were joined by Peter Thom, General Motors' vice president global manufacturing and Stefan Fesser, Ellesmere Port plant director.

Thom was visiting to hand over the 2015 Winner for Safety award, won by the plant. Fesser also collected 2015 Winner for Vauxhall/Opel Astra Hatchback Launch awarded by Jim Deluca, Executive Vice President and Thom. Thanks to the outstanding attitude and work ethic of the employees, the plant beat world-class competition from across Europe to build the new car.

The Ellesmere Port Plant is a significant contributor to the local and national economies building over five million vehicles since 1964. The factory is a major exporter with 52 per cent of production going to 25 European markets. At full production it is estimated the plant will build around 680 cars per day and 120,000 per year.

UK firms, including those in manufacturing, utilities, construction, transportation and storage, benefit from almost £70 million gross value added directly from Vauxhall's investment in Ellesmere Port.

"This first Astra Sports Tourer marks another milestone in the great history of Vauxhall manufacturing in the North-West," said Rory Harvey, Vauxhall's chairman and managing director. The all-new Astra is of critical importance to Vauxhall and its manufacturing facility in Ellesmere Port. I'm very proud of the men and women who build this vehicle to world class levels of quality and productivity."

Lightweight

Like its five-door hatch sibling, the Sports Tourer is based on an all-new lightweight vehicle architecture with a new design, powertrains and technology.

The Sports Tourer further extends the dynamic lines of the five-door. The slightly arched sloping roofline gives the Sports Tourer a longer appearance, an effect that is further enhanced by the divided C-pillar.

The rear view combines high functionality with elegant design. The Sports Tourer has a stable, robust and safe stance, the muscular rear-wheel arch contours and the divided rear light clusters add to this impression.

The latest generation Sports Tourer has the same dimensions as the outgoing model with a length of 4,702mm, a width of 1,871mm (with exterior mirrors folded in) and a height of 1,499mm – however, it offers much more space for passengers and luggage.

The driver can enjoy 26mm of additional headroom, passengers in the rear have 28mm more, providing more space and comfort. The Sports Tourer's total cargo capacity is now 1,630 litres, thanks to more efficient packaging.

The powertrain portfolio features petrol and diesel units ranging from 100PS to 200PS, including an all-new 1.4-litre (150PS) ECOTEC Direct Injection Turbo and the recently-launched 1.6-litre CDTi Whisper Diesel. The 200PS version of the 1.6-litre ECOTEC petrol will celebrate its world premiere at Frankfurt.

Depending on the model and trim level it is up to 200kg lighter than its predecessor. The completely new vehicle architecture plays a major role in the weight reduction. Every component was checked for compact design and lightweight materials. The body shell weight alone was reduced by 20 per cent from 357kg to 280kg.

The Astra Sports Tourer also features OnStar, the ground-breaking connectivity technology now available across Europe. OnStar includes high-speed 4G LTE mobile network, emergency response notification and stolen vehicle recovery alert.

The Sports Tourer is also one of the first vehicles from a mainstream manufacturer to get Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, available through a new version of the IntelliLink infotainment system.

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Tyre firm is driving ahead

Bridgestone UK's tyre division is embarking on a golf sponsorship quite unique to the UK tyre industry, featuring a European Tour event partnership, the resurrection of a high-profile English tournament and a nationwide amateur competition with up to 1,900 golf clubs.

The premium tyre manufacturer has unveiled a three-pronged association with the sport, which will not only engage with thousands of amateur players across England, but will also include the reintroduction of an England-based Challenge Tour event after a three year absence.

Bridgestone's holistic package of golf sponsorships includes the following:

- Official partner of the European Tour's British Masters event, supported by Sky Sports, from October 13 to 16, hosted by Luke Donald at The Grove

- Headline sponsor of the Bridgestone Challenge, a Challenge Tour event, at Heythrop Park from August 25 to 28

- The creation of the Bridgestone DriveGuard Trophy, a Bridgestone amateur championship in association with England Golf, reaching up to 1,900 clubs and 650,000 players

The decision to embark on a high profile golf sponsorship represents a significant change from more commonplace sports partnerships in the tyre industry, with Bridgestone keen to create a stage for amateurs of all abilities to realise their dreams and play the game on the highest stage.

Such an incentive was crucial in Bridgestone's decision to enter the world of golf, as the tyre manufacturer attempts to

engage with players in a tangible way that will live long in the memory.

Bridgestone decided to embark on a golfing journey after a successful foray into the sport in 2015, where a tournament for amateur players yielded great exposure and significant interest in the company's premium products.

This year will see an extension of this event in partnership with England Golf, with courses across England invited to introduce the Bridgestone DriveGuard Trophy onto their calendars between March, April and May. The competition will be free to enter and accessible to golfers of all ages and handicaps and is open to men, women and juniors.

It has been named after an innovative new range of Bridgestone tyres called DriveGuard, which allow drivers to maintain control after a puncture and safely continue for 50 miles and speeds up to 50mph, or a safe destination to organise a replacement.

Each club winner will go on to play in regional DriveGuard Trophy finals in June and July, with the triumphant golfers in the regional finals going on to play in the pro-am of the Bridgestone Challenge event itself in August.

And to link the sponsorships perfectly, the winners of the Bridgestone Challenge program will then win a trip to the British Masters, supported by Sky Sports, to play in the official pro-am with some of the biggest and best names in the sport, in October.

Bridgestone's north region consumer sales and marketing director Farrell Dolan said: "We have identified huge potential from the world of golf and are extremely excited to be entering into a series of sponsorships covering such a broad range of the sport.

"We also feel that the core values that underpin the sport are synonymous with our



The Challenge Tour offers the best way for talented young golfers to develop their professional game and a large number of our recent success stories have been English players

own, most notably that of respect, integrity and excellence."

Jamie Birkmyre, European Tour director of Championship Management, said: "It is fantastic news that Bridgestone are becoming a partner of the British Masters supported by Sky Sports. The tournament was a huge success on its reintroduction to The European Tour last year and it is a real coup to be able to enjoy the backing of the world's largest tyre and rubber company."

Alain de Soultrait, Challenge Tour director, said: "We are delighted to be able to partner with Bridgestone and are excited to be bringing the Challenge Tour back to

England, aided by the support of England Golf.

"The Challenge Tour offers the best way for talented young golfers to develop their professional game and a large number of our recent success stories have been English players.

"Major Champion Justin Rose and Ryder Cup hero Ian Poulter both came through our ranks while Tommy Fleetwood and Andrew Johnston both finished top of the Challenge Tour Rankings in recent years.

"The commitment Bridgestone is showing to encourage the growth of the game in England will hopefully lead to similar success stories in future years."

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Police slip behind pace after defeat to Hotshots

DEFENDING Stourbridge & District Snooker League Premier Division champions Norton Social A increased their lead at the top with a 4-1 victory at Pockets SC.

Meanwhile, their closest rivals, West Midlands Police slipped up 3-2 at home to Hotshots SC A and trail the leaders by nine points.

Brandhall Labour Club led 2-0 but were pulled back thanks to teenagers Macauley Gunn and Tom Pepperall. But in the decider, Bal Sembi stroked home an impressive 107 break to clinch the win for Brandhall.

First Division leaders Kinver Constitutional B suffered back-to-back league defeats, this latest 3-2 at home to their closest rivals, Kingswinford Cons B, but, with three matches left, they still hold a nine point cushion.

Kingswinford Cons A are two points further away in third after a 3-2 win against Moor Pool & Snooker B. Amblecote Inst B climbed above Wombourne after a 3-2 win on their rivals' tables.

With division two leaders Stourbridge Old Edwardians not playing, Amblecote RBL B narrowed the gap to seven points, overcoming a 2-0 deficit to beat Kingswinford Cons D. Kingswinford Cons C maintained the pressure with a 4-1 win away to Stourbridge Inst C.

Results: Premier Division: Brandhall Labour 3 Pockets SC A 2; Hotshots SC B 4 Baggeridge Social 1; Pockets SC B 1 Norton Social A 4; West Midlands Police 2 Hotshots SC A 3; First Division: Kinver Const B 2 Kingswinford Cons B 3; Stourbridge Inst A 5 Kinver Const A 0; Kingswinford Cons A 3 Moor Pool & Snooker B 2; Wombourne 2 Amblecote Inst B 3; Moor Pool & Snooker C 1 Kinver Const C 4; Norton Social B 3 Stourbridge Inst B 2.

Second Division: Kingswinford Cons D 2 Amblecote RBL B 3; Stourbridge Inst C 1 Kingswinford Cons C 4; Amblecote RBL A 5 Amblecote Inst D 0; Amblecote Inst C 3 Kingswinford SC 2; Kinver Const D 3 Stourbridge Inst D 2

Tivi point to a clean sheet for another draw

Tividale 0 Stocksbridge Park 0
A FIRST clean sheet but only a point – Tividale's 11th draw of the season would definitely have been on last if filmed for Match of the Day.

Steels had a let-off within seconds of the kick-off, Jason Chilton's cross forcing visiting keeper Dave Reay into frantic back-peddalling before the ball pinged off the bar.

That apart, neither keeper was unduly troubled in the first period.

The second half was a little better. Tividale keeper Tom Turner got down well to save from Scott Ruthven and with just five minutes to go produced a fine save to deny Steels substitute Brodie Litchfield.

Stocksbridge may feel they were unfortunate not to be awarded an injury time penalty when Tividale defender Luke Wright appeared to have handled on the line.

Sharpe's shame over Villa plight



Lee Sharpe at Hednesford's Keys Park

FORMER Manchester United star Lee Sharpe believes the club should stick with beleaguered boss Louis van Gaal – as they groom Ryan Giggs to be his successor.

Black Country boy Sharpe came 'home' to headline 'An Audience With' show at Hednesford Town Football Club.

The 44-year-old, who was born in Halesowen, was the star turn of Darren Ashmore's DKA Promotions' offering for more than 100 guests at Keys Park. Sharpe was in

the first-team at Old Trafford when Giggs broke through in the early 1990s. And he reckons the Welsh legend has always been earmarked for the manager's role.

Sharpe said: "I think the plan has always been for 'Giggsy' to take over in the long term.

"He's learned a lot from Sir Alex Ferguson, a lot from van Gaal and a bit from David Moyes in his short period there.

"He's was an attacking player, so he'll be forward thinking in the way

he wants the team to play. That expansive football seems to be what's missing, so it could be perfect."

Sharpe was a boyhood Villa fan and has seen the claret and blues cast adrift at the foot of the table. Sharpe said: "It's such a shame. I've followed Villa since I was a boy and I'm gutted I never got the chance to play for them, in the end.

"I think they've got the wrong manager, I rate Remi Garde but he's not Premier League relegation battle material."

Sam the man claims Best Boxer accolade

STOURBRIDGE'S Sam Eggington gears up for his British and Commonwealth title defence next week after adding the Best Boxer accolade to his stash.

The 22-year-old welterweight walked off with the top gong at the British Boxing Board of Control's Midlands Area awards.

'The Savage' will defend his belts against mandatory challenger Bradley Skeete at the Genting Arena in Birmingham on Saturday night, live on Sky Sports.

Eggington enjoyed a breakthrough 2015 where he seized the WBC International Silver, Commonwealth and British straps in separate contests and all by stoppage.

Eggington beat off competition from Derby's Dave Ryan, who won the Commonwealth light middleweight title, and Leicester's English super middleweight champion Jahmaine Smyle.

Lincoln's Bobby Jenkinson won Best Young Boxer, ahead of his Commonwealth super bantamweight title defence against Gamal Yafai on the Genting bill.

Also nominated were Corby's Simon Barclay, signed to promoter Frank Warren, and Nottinghamshire flyweight Jamie Williams.

Luke Paddock's ding-dong with nemesis Andy Keates for the Midlands light welterweight title won Best Fight honours.

The two old rivals – with Keates winning three to Paddock's two in amateur bouts between the pair – clashed as professionals for the first time at Walsall Football Club.

An engrossing and keenly-contested 10-round contest saw Bloxwich's Paddock relinquish the crown by a point. Best Newcomer went to unbeaten prospect Craig Morris, from Ludlow, ahead of stylish Brummie Cori Gibbs and Leicester's power puncher Lyon Woodstock.

The Best Supporting Boxer category is re-



Winners at the British Boxing Board of Control's Midlands Area awards

served for the 'road warriors,' the journeymen who travel up and down the country often taking fights at short notice.

It went to Worcestershire super flyweight Brett Fidge, who won one by TKO in 2015. Puncher Elvis Dube, from Derby, and Newark's 'Fonz' Alexander Anderson were also considered.

Honour

The Boxer From the Past accolade went to Bloxwich's Andy Peach and for Services to Boxing – a Hall of Fame and Lifetime Achievement honour – went to Errol Johnson, trainer at Wednesday Boxing Academy and promoter of Black Country Boxing.

Halesowen super middleweight Lennox Clarke has been added to Black Country Boxing's 'Cool Hand & The Gang'.

The undefeated boxer takes on Swindon's Kelvin

Young over six rounds on the Walsall Town Hall show, sponsored by Grosvenor Casino Walsall, on Saturday, March 19.

Walsall super lightweight, Luke 'Cool Hand' Paddock, takes on Derbyshire's Lee Connelly in a six round contest at the top of the bill whilst fellow Walsall fighter Martin Gethin makes a welcome return to the Town Hall against 'Fonz' Alexander.

Also in action are Midlands Area Super Welterweight Champion Jason Welborn, the Bowater brothers Sid and Des, West Bromwich middleweight Tom Stokes and two debutants who have made the switch from kick boxing, including Wolverhampton's former world featherweight champion Kyle Williams.

Tickets are £30 (general admission) and £60 (VIP Ringside) on 0845 111 2900 or directly from any boxer on the bill. The weigh-in and aftershow take place at Grosvenor Casino Walsall, Bentley Mill Way, Walsall.

Morris glad to be back on track with the Heathens

CRADLEY'S Ashley Morris insists the Heathens was the only club he would return to in the National League.

Morris had an impressive 2015 season with King's Lynn in the Elite League and Ipswich at Premier League level.

But he hasn't been retained at that level which left the National League as his only option to stay on track – and he's ready to take up the challenge.

Morris is desperate to repay the Heathens management for giving him another opportunity and admits it's a big year ahead.

"I wasn't picked for a Premier League or an Elite League spot which I was a little bit disappointed about, but to be back with the Heathens is great," he said.

"The National League was an option put to me in the end and if I was going to drop back down then it would have only ever been to re-join Cradley. It's a club I know will build my confidence back up."

"I'll just go out there, give it everything I've got and hopefully I'll be scoring double figures in as many meetings as I can.

"I want to give something back to the one club that's always stuck by me and got me to where I am today."

Morris will be launching the new 2016 ISC official teamwear at the club's official 'Printworx' club shop, Market Square, Cradley Heath between noon and 2pm on Saturday, March 12.

The Motor Market-sponsored side have also been invited to be a part of Wolverhampton's press and practice on March 22. Gates open at 6.30pm with a £1 donation to be made to a local charity.

DT's Knight on charge with a debut double

Team Dudley 5 Penncroft 1
NEW signing Chris Knight struck twice as Team Dudley battered lowly Penncroft 5-1 in West Midlands Division One.

Penncroft almost went in front after five minutes when TD keeper Josh Davies pushed James Moore's shot on to the crossbar.

But it was the home side who took the lead after 18 minutes when Matt Simmons was felled in the box and Knight sent Ben Czerepaninec the wrong way from the spot.

Joshua Gardner's header after 37 minutes brought an equaliser, but TD regained the lead before the break through Simmons.

Skipper James Hawthorne's headed home 10 minutes into the second half, Knight finished from six yards and Nathan Jones wrapped it up.

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Blue Hoops on show for Action Heart

FOR the majority of athletes from Dudley Kingswinford, Saturday marked the end of a busy cross country season with their final run round muddy fields at the National Cross Country Championships at Donington Park.

With the cream of the cross country crop heading for the Leicestershire venue this was like a cup final for the blue hoops and an opportunity to rub shoulders with international athletes.

The course was designed to benefit runners and spectators alike with multiple laps of testing, undulating and muddy fields with the ladies setting off over an 8k distance 40 minutes ahead of the men who covered 12k.

With the first four finishers to count in the ladies team standings Lynn Sprague was first home for DK in 45.3rd in 44.15, Carol Fisher placed 541st in 46.48, Hannah McGuire finished in 47.14 to take 547th place and Sarah Cox 583rd in 48.29 to place the club 75th overall out of 84.

In the Senior Men's race the blue hoops lined up in the same starting pen as defending champion Charlie Hulson from Sale Harriers.

Ben Foster was first back in 300th place in 50.26. Stuart Perkins had a fantastic run to place 625th in 55.26, James Wright was 686th in 56.12 despite carrying an injury, Simon Hughes was 814th in 57.45, holding off a fast finishing Dave Norman in 818th in 57.47 with Daren Thompson completing the A team scorers in 59.15. The men's team finished 61st out of 123 teams.

Twenty four hours later there were plenty of hoops on show for the Action Heart 5. Darran Bishop was first back in 22nd in 31.39, Sergej Ljubovnikov, 45th in 35.20, Darren Marklew 70th in 37.09, Roger Beddard 71st in 37.10, John Andrews 83rd in 37.44 Tom Cobb 122nd in 40.22 and Rory Campbell 159th in 42.10.

Yeltz draw on their spirit as Sweeney goal earns a point

Buxton 1 Halesowen Town 1
HALESOWEN put in a spirited performance to earn their first away point in three games against a team they played only days before – and with the same outcome.

The Yeltz started well and applied early pressure to the home defence, forcing six corners in the opening 20 minutes. Aaron Griffiths went close when he was sent clear by Jay Denny, but Myles Wright saved his shot.

Buxton took the lead though in the 33rd minute through a nice header by George Grayson who also started the move.

But three minutes later Halesowen were level when a shot by Dan Sweeney found its way past Wright and into the net for a deserved equaliser.

Buxton made the running early in the second half, Djeny Bembo-Leta shooting over from six yards and with two minutes to go the same player put Ash Worsfold away but he couldn't get a shot in.

On the counter attack, Halesowen went down the other end but saw a shot saved by Wright with his legs.

Broadhurst edges it for Glassboys

Stourbridge 1 Darlington 0

STOURBRIDGE improved their Evo-Stik Premier promotion prospects with a deserved win over dogged play-off rivals Darlington.

The Glassboys had to survive a severe defensive examination courtesy of Darlington's route one approach.

The Quakers had bombarded Stourbridge's defence with an aerial assault from the word go.

It fell to long-serving Leon Broadhurst who finally secured the winning outcome for Gary Hackett's men. With an hour gone, he lashed home a low, long-range shot inside the foot of the post.

Football

Sutton Coldfield 2 Stourbridge 3

A GOAL in each half from striker Karl Hawley helped steer Stourbridge to a 3-2 victory at Sutton Coldfield and lift them back into the play-off places. Chris Lait was also on target.

Aaron Forde shot the home side in front. But Hawley drilled in an equaliser on the stroke of half-time.

Hawley fed Lait on 57 minutes and then added his second for a 3-1 lead. A delightful Ryan Edmunds free-kick pulled one back.

● Twenty five years since the Glassboys won the Southern League Midland Division in 1991, Stourbridge FC club president Hugh Clark is looking to reunite the title winning side when Stourbridge host Whitby Town at Amblecote on Saturday April 16.

He has already spoken to some of the players concerned, but is currently trying to make contact with Dave Morbey, Kevin Collins, Peter Gocan, Simon Russon and Andy Hodgetts.

Mr Clark said: "There are some players that I haven't been able to trace so far, so if anyone has knowledge of their whereabouts, call me on 01384 392975."

CONVINCING HALES GO NAP

Bromsgrove 15 Old Halesonians 35

IT WAS a tight schedule at Finsall Park given the Six Nations England game following this important National 3 Midlands fixture for Hales.

The visitors went into this game having lost narrowly here on the last two occasions and similarly at home in the league fixture earlier in the season.

After only four minutes of pressure the home side were rewarded with a try and conversion and after only seven minutes the lead was extended with another try.

Steve Leach's try, converted by Oli Rayner, got Old Hales on the scorecard before half-time.

The second half was a total contrast as Old Hales came out fighting but were penalised for offside and a penalty against was converted. For Bromsgrove, that was as good as it got.

After 55 minutes winger Joe Oxford sprinted for a score in the corner, converted by Rayner.

From the kick-off Hales again attacked and after three minutes of pressure Chris Hooper crossed the line, again converted by the trusty boot of Rayner to take the lead for the first time.

Hales loose head prop Matt Young was replaced by Rob Butler and immediately the Hales side again went to work on the opposition. After 62 minutes pressure by the Hales pack produced the ball for Dave Hadkiss who slipped through for a bonus point score, converted again by Rayner.

The home side could now not contain the rampant visitors and for the next 15 minutes the Halesowen side were in command. With minutes to go Hales were awarded a scrum on the Grove 10 metre line. The Hales forwards drove at the opposition who were forced to collapse the scrum. A penalty try was awarded which Rayner converted for a convincing win – their fifth in a row.

Old Hales meet Hinckley at home this Saturday kick off 3pm, preceded by the annual Former Players Reunion Lunch in the club room.

Old Halesonians 2nds 24 Bromsgrove 12
JAKE Shellis scored a try, a penalty and a hat-trick of conversions.

Luke Fenton and Jay Reid also touched down, while the thirds were left disappointed when the game at Worcester was called off with less than three hours to go before kick-off.

Pride as Lions roar into final



Stourbridge hooker Scott Langdon crashes over for this first of his two tries

Stourbridge Lions 32 Kidderminster 23

STOURBRIDGE Lions reached the final of the RFU Intermediate Cup (Midlands) after a thrilling encounter with rivals Kidderminster.

The Lions handed Kidderminster a dream start by knocking on from the kick-off and losing the scrum, followed by poor tackling which allowed winger Arthur Morgan to score.

Lions equalised through Scott Langdon's first try. He was on hand to score again on the 15 minute mark. Centre Sam Wilson converted.

Stourbridge gave too many penalties away and were penalised in front of their own posts, leaving Kiddy fly half Freddie Morgan with an

easy three points. Sam Wilson kicked a penalty in reply. Scrum half Ben Tibbetts scored under the posts, again converted by Wilson. But with Stourbridge a man down, Kidderminster No8 Wilkinson trundled over. Morgan converted.

Ben Tibbetts pounced on a loose ball for an unconverted try.

With 10 minutes left, Langdon found himself on the wrong side of several sets of Kidderminster studs. The referee spotted the 'affairs' which earned him a straight red card. From the penalty, No8 Wilkinson scored again. But the Lions sealed victory through George Tidesley.

Lions meet either Wolverhampton or Barkers Butts on Easter Saturday (March 26).

Brooker stays as skipper of cricket club

RICHARD Brooker will remain skipper of Halesowen Cricket Club after an impressive second half of last season.

Brooker took over at a time when the team were struggling for consistency and helped them to third place after a string of superb performances.

Brooker admits he is looking forward to the new season with fresh optimism sweeping Seth Somers Park.

He said: "I'm really looking forward to getting started and to the season ahead."

"We have managed to retain many of the key players from the 2015 season whilst making one or two additions to the team as well."

"We will be changing our overseas player to someone who knows this league inside-out and could have a major impact on our aims for promotion to Division One."

Brooker has confirmed he is looking closely at rewarding some of the second team youngsters with first team opportunities.

Seconds skipper Adam Hawker expects some of his players to move up a level. "I'm resigned to losing one or two players to Richard, that's to be expected when you have a season like we did," he said.

The club holds its AGM next Tuesday where they are set to announce a bumper financial year and a thriving membership as well as the formal appointment of respected ECB coach Carl Bust as Head of Youth Cricket.

Bust's first task will be to oversee the early season Youth programme and launch the new Halesowen CC Easter Cricket Academy Programme.

The club starts its extensive pre-season programme on April 9 with an opening home match against Droitwich at 1pm and follow it up with a series of outdoor sessions and friendlies over April.

Cricketer Tufnell to have guests in spin

FORMER England cricketer Phil Tufnell is the star attraction at a Dudley hotel next month.

The Question of Sport captain will entertain with 'An Evening With...' at the Copthorne Hotel, Level Street, Brierley Hill, on Thursday, April 16 from 7.45pm.

BBC Radio WM's Paul Franks will compere the night, while comedy will come from Gary Marshall.

Dress code is lounge suits and a three-course meal will be served. There will also be a charity raffle and auction.

Individual tickets are £55, while tables of eight or 10 cost £50 per head.

To book tickets, call 01902 244220.

★★★

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